Halesowen
CHRONICLE
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PARKING BAY BID TO BOOST TRADE

Report by Clare Butler

PLANS for new parking bays aim to boost trade in an area of Halesowen.

A total of some 15 bays are proposed in four locations in Shell Corner, and could see double yellow lines removed in order to accommodate them.

The bays would be placed near shops in Malt Mill Lane, Nimmings Road and two separate locations outside shops in Long Lane.

Councillor Stuart Henley, who is behind the plans, said it would increase much-needed footfall for businesses in the area.

He explained: "If we get the parking bays introduced by the shops it will take the cars off the road that are currently pulling up on pavements and double yellow lines and getting ticketed.

"The shops in Shell Corner are losing out on business because people can't stop. It's about trying to get more footfall and improvements to the area."

He continued: "Some of the bays would be for 15 to 20 minutes only, to give just enough time to pop into a shop. I've spoken to the shopkeepers and they are happy with the idea and would like something like this in place.

"I've done a petition too, which has been positive, and I've had a meeting with the disability group to see about disabled bays as well."

He added: "The area needs money spent on it to make money."

The 15 to 20 minute bays would be provided on Malt Mill Lane and Nimmings Road, serving shops and takeaways such as Decrease Ironing Service, Balti Towers, Costcutter, Shell Corner Newsagent and the Lifestyle Express.

Provisional plans also include a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the island and Nimmings Road.

Order

There had been a problem in the area of illegal parking in side streets .

A spokesperson for Dudley Council said: "The council receives many requests to introduce new parking schemes, road safety improvements and other highways works, which would require a Traffic Regulation Order to implement them. It receives far more than we could ever hope to afford and so, each October, the list is reviewed and prioritised.

"The scheme in question will be included in that process to ensure the council deliver the most needed and critical traffic related projects."

Councillor Henley's bid to get an artillery shell positioned at Shell Corner, reminding people how the area got its name, in time for Remembrance Sunday has suffered a setback.

Councillor Stuart Henley launched a campaign to raise cash for the shell to be placed on a planter at Shell Corner. But Dudley Council have ruled out all the required consultations and permissions being done in time for Poppy Day.

POWER OF HOPE UNITES MALALA AND ARCHBISHOP



Malala Yousafzai and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spoke at the Power of Hope event at Dudley College on Saturday

'BELIEVE in yourself and dream beyond limits' – that was the message to young people from teenager Malala Yousafzai as she spoke with the Archbishop of Canterbury in Dudley.

The 19-year-old, who survived an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen in Pakistan four years ago and is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke passionately about education, women's rights, religion and faith in front of audience at Dudley College on Saturday.

Malala, who now lives in Birmingham, said she wanted her appearance alongside Archbishop Justin Welby to be a message of 'religious and cultural harmony' that would inspire young people, especially women, to stand up for what they believed.

She told the audience at the Power of Hope event at the college that she decided to make a stand demanding that girls be allowed to receive an education in 2009 after the Taliban banned girls from attending school in her home province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"I knew if I couldn't get my education, I couldn't get on with my life," she said.

Malala began blogging for the BBC but her views led to her being shot in the head by a gunman on her school bus on October 9, 2012. She was airlifted to Birmingham, where she was treated for life-threatening injuries at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Since her recovery she has become an advocate for girls' education and women's rights, speaking around the globe.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby spoke of his admiration for Malala and how her faith and belief in education had inspired her determination.

The following day the sound of hymns filled Merry Hill when the Archbishop was joined by the Bishop of Dudley Graham Usher and Bishop of Worcester John Inge for a songs of praise style service at the shopping centre.

The Black Country leg of the Archbishop's three-day tour of the Diocese of Worcester also included a visit to a refugee support project at Halesowen United Reformed Church and a meeting with Dudley Interfaith Network.

The Archbishop also enjoyed a pint at Ma Pardoe's in Netherton.

COLLISION

Man dies in hospital after being hit by car

A PEDESTRIAN has died after being struck by a car in Stourbridge.

The 35-year-old man died after the incident on High Street, Amblecote, near to Vicarage Road at around 2.35pm on Sunday. He was treated at the scene by paramedics but died in hospital later that day.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "The driver of the car stopped at the scene and is assisting officers with the investigation.

Witnesses are asked to contact Sgt Wood and his team by calling 101.

POLITICS

MP Spellar in vow to tackle scammers

A BLACK Country MP has championed a campaign to stop people from becoming victims of email and postal swindles.

Warley MP John Spellar is backing Trading Standards' 'Take a Stand Against Scams' scheme and has pledged to work to support those who are vulnerable. Scammers often target the elderly by bombarding them with requests for payment, often for non-existent services. The Labour MP said: "Scams damage lives."

YOUTH

Children's home set to close down

A CHILDREN'S home in Brierley Hill is to close. Parkes Street Children's Home will shut following a review, in a move saving Dudley Council £670,000 a year.

The size and location of the building was said to be unsuitable for children's needs. The council also said calls to police to deal with incidents at the six-bed home had reached an 'unacceptable level'.

The home was closed temporarily in April and bosses at Dudley Council have now decided it should shut for good – putting 73 jobs at risk. Chiefs said discussions would take place with trade unions and staff regarding the closure.

INSIDE

FOOD SHOW'S HOT TICKET



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Decision due on £28m light rail hub



Proposed light rail centre

LONG-AWAITED plans for a rail innovation centre in Dudley have moved a step closer after the scheme was recommended for approval by council bosses.

Outline plans for the £28 million project in Dudley's Castle Hill are due to be given the green light by councillors on Monday.

The Very Light Rail Innovation Centre and testing track is part of a scheme by Warwick Manufacturing Group, which struck a deal with Dudley Council two years ago. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for leisure, Khurshid Ahmed, said: "This new innovation centre will be an example of Dudley making history once again.

"We want to be at the forefront of innovation and that new technology created at the centre will help transport not just nationally but also internationally. This will help the people of Dudley, create jobs and will also be an iconic building for people to visit.

"Ministers are very keen for this development to happen, we've got a commitment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and are also confident we will get European funding."

A 'very light rail' line will run from a technology centre at the bottom of Castle Hill, through Dudley Tunnel and terminating close to Cinder Bank.

The site was a British Rail freightliner depot but closed during the late 1980s, as well as housing Dudley railway station, which closed in the 1960s.

Jobs at risk in day care transport shake-up

TWENTY jobs are at risk under Dudley Council plans to privatise transport services to day care centres in a bid to save more than £250,000.

The proposed move – the latest in a swathe of cost-cutting plans by the authority – has been met with concern from some.

Council bosses said they will be reviewing the lease on its fleet of 11 minibuses and plan to use private companies to deliver the transport services to four day care centres in the borough.

The changes, which are due to come into force before the end of the year, would affect 13 permanent staff and seven casual workers.

Users who pay for the transport would not see a change in terms of prices, the Labour-controlled council insists.

But some people are still concerned over the changes causing upset and possible repercussions in the future when demand for the services goes up.

Among the day care centres affected are the Unicorn Centre in Stourbridge, Queens Cross Network in Dudley, The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote and The Brett Young Day centre in Halesowen.

Upset

David Walker, aged 73, from Wall Heath, whose wife Hazel, 69, attends The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote, said staff there were 'upset' after hearing about the cuts.

Mr Walker is his wife's carer and takes Hazel, who has Alzheimer's, to the centre three days a week.

"I am upset more than shocked because the Government have reduced the amount of money to local authorities," he said.

The cost-cutting plan would save the council £263,000. The authority needs to save £20 million over three years and has already implemented cuts in other areas.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, UKIP leader in Dudley, believes that demand for the services is only going to increase.

"A lot more consultation needs to be done with those people who will be affected," he said. "We have to recognise that we are getting more people with dementia and so there will be a bigger demand on these services."

Crematorium opens after revamp



Councillor Ann Shackleton, manager Mark Satchwell, Mayor Julie Webb, councillors Steve Eling and Syeda Khatun

A MODERNISED Rowley Regis Crematorium and Chapel has officially reopened following a £1.3 million revamp.

Work to upgrade the building and chapel, which first opened in 1962, started two years ago and has seen the chapel more than double its capacity for up to 120 mourners.

Improvements include a new more energy-efficient cremator, a dedicated waiting area and reception and digital music and web broadcasting facilities for family and friends who cannot attend a funeral. There is also dedicated car parking, a sheltered floral space, a book of remembrance room, new entrance, improved toilet facilities and improvements to the interior and exterior of the building.

Sandwell's mayor Councillor Julie Webb was present at the opening ceremony last Thursday along with council leader Councillor Steve Eling, deputy leader Councillor Syeda Khatun, other ward members from the Rowley and Cradley areas and representatives of local funeral directors.

Councillor Chris Tranter, said: "It was necessary for us to have the best facilities for people in the borough. There is now all sorts of ways for modern technology to take it forward.

Councillor Khatun, said: "Sandwell has always recognised the importance its residents place, at what is a very difficult time in their lives, on a quality Bereavement Service."

Wounding charge for youth after stabbing

A 14-year-old boy was due to appear before Wolverhampton Youth Court yesterday (Wednesday) over the stabbing of a man in Sedgley at the weekend.

The teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested at his home address and appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court earlier this week charged with wounding with intent following the attack on Sunday.

He was remanded in youth detention and the case adjourned until yesterday.

The 18-year-old victim was found with a stab wound to his stomach in the High Street at around 6pm on Sunday. His condition has since improved and he is continung to recover in hospital.

A 15-year-old boy was also arrested in connection with the incident but has since been released without charge.

Bail

It was one of two stabbings that shocked Dudley at the weekend.

Police officers were called at 5.35pm on Saturday to a stabbing at Shadwell Drive in Lower Gornal.

A 22-year-old man was taken to hospital and was later described as being in a stable condition.

Three 15-year-old boys were arrested in connection with Saturday's incident but then released on police bail.

Anyone with information about the incidents is asked to call police on 101, details can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Rap star Drake has Arena dates

TICKETS range in price from just over £63 to £145 for concerts by top rapper Drake that have been announced for the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on February 22 and 23.

Tickets go on sale for the two concerts by the Grammy-award winning R&B star from Canada, real name Aubrey Drake Graham, tomorrow (Friday) from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Meanwhile, 1990s girl band All Saints have got back together for a new album and tour, calling at Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Sunday evening South African singer Belinda Davids brings her tribute The Whitney Houston Show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Academy expansion set for go-ahead

PLANS to expand a Tipton secondary school were set to get the go-ahead yesterday (Wednesday), boosting pupil numbers by nearly 300. Sandwell planners were being urged to give the green light to a new building with 18 classrooms at RSA Academy, in Bilston Road.











Elderly are being urged to go get the flu jab

OVER 65s across the Dudley borough are being urged to get their free flu jabs before winter sets in.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is reminding residents that jabs are not for life and as viruses change each year so does the vaccination.

The drive to get the community winter ready will help save many people from illness.

Dr Steve Mann, GP and clinical executive at Dudley CCG, said: "Flu is a really nasty illness, particularly for those over 65.

"You are more likely to become seriously ill and have problems like pneumonia or make a current illness or condition worse if you don't get the jab."

Dr Mann added that getting a jab was quick and easy, saying: "All it takes is a quick visit to your GP surgery."

Season

The flu season is between September and March and the vaccine is available now.

Residents should look out for a letter, email or text from their GP telling them about the dates and times of their flu clinics.

People are eligible for a free flu vaccination if they are pregnant, 65 years of age or over, or have certain medical conditions, which include people suffering from asthma or other respiratory conditions.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/staywell

School apply for extra classrooms

A PRIMARY school in Halesowen is set to expand with two new classrooms and an office after plans were recommended for approval.

Proposals for the extension at Lapal Primary, in Priory Road, are due to be given the go-ahead by Dudley Council planners on Monday.

The school has put forward a scheme to demolish an existing prefabricated nursery building and outbuilding and construct new teaching accommodation.

Planning documents state that two trees will need to be removed to accommodate the new classrooms, while minor changes to the playground will also be required.

The work would allow the school to take on an extra 15 pupils.

Artist Geoff to talk about career

ARTIST and cartoonist Geoff Tristram is to talk about his career at Dudley Library. Mr Tristram, of Wollaston, talks about 40 years Watching Paint Dry on October 25 at 2.30pm. Tickets £3 on (01384) 815560.

Former Imam guilty of indecent assaults

A RELIGIOUS leader who carried out sex attacks on two young girls at his mosque faces jail.

Hafiz Rahman, who was the Imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath, has been found guilty of five out of seven charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He was cleared of the other two.

The 58-year-old, of Ballard Road, Netherton, sexually assaulted the girls at the mosque in a string of attacks between March 1986 and August 1987.

The victims, who were aged under 10 at the time, had gone to the mosque for religious studies.

They had described to the jury how they were touched sexually by Rahman.

One woman broke down as she explained how she found it hard to understand what was happening. She was only six-years-old when the attack happened.

She told police: "I felt morally obliged to do the right thing."

The jury reached unanimous verdicts at the end of the five-day trial on five of the charges.

Custodial

Judge Nicholas Cartwright said Rahman should expect an immediate custodial sentence due to the nature of the charges, though the defendant was not in court to hear the verdicts after Mr Tariq Shakoor, defending, informed the judge that Rahman was ill.

Judge Cartwright added sentencing should take place on a date to be arranged once Rahman had made a full recovery.

Detective Constable Liz Skyte from West Midland Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "The abuse started with inappropriate touching but escalated to more serious assaults.

"The first complainant told us how the abuse happened almost daily but she never told anyone as due to his high standing in the community, she thought she would not be believed."

He ruled the father of seven and grandfather of 10 should also sign the Sex Offenders Register as soon as possible.

Rahman, who had a Bengali interpreter, did not give evidence himself during the trial.

Plan revived to replace club with store car park

A POPULAR social club in Halesowen is set to be flattened to pave the way for an expanded supermarket car park – sparking anger among local councillors and residents.

Plans to demolish the Halesowen Members Club so budget chain Lidl can create more spaces for shoppers have been recommended for approval by planners. The scheme had previously been turned down by Dudley Council but revamped proposals now look set to get the green light from the planning committee on Monday.

Belle Vale ward councillor Simon Phipps said it will be 'a great loss if the club is to go'.

He added: "The members club is a local venue which is well used and popular with a number of clubs. If it is knocked down it would be a loss to Halesowen.

"It's an asset for the town and all the ward councillors would be disappointed if the committee accepts the recommendation of planning officials."

Previous plans for the demolition of the club on Hagley Road were rejected earlier this year.

Council officers then said they were unhappy the supermarket was not planning to create a new entrance to the extended car park and also concerned about the extension leading to traffic problems on the busy Hagley Road.

But in a design statement submitted as part of the new planning package, Lidl said the concerns had been addressed.

Demand

The statement says: "The purpose of the development is to meet additional demand for car parking and improve the circulation and flow of the car park.

"The additional car parking provision and closing off of an existing access will not adversely impact upon the operation of the store or lead to highway safety concerns. Indeed, the proposals offer benefits in terms of highway safety. Furthermore, disabled parking and cycle parking provision will remain in accordance with adopted standards."

The document continues. "Lidl has taken a proactive approach to addressing concerns regarding both visual and residential amenity in order to ensure the new car park extension will not result in material harm in matters of planning importance."

The Hagley Road Lidl store opened on the site of a former Peugeot garage in January 2008 and has enjoyed a boom in recent years with shoppers budget stores.



Halesowen Members' Club could be flattened make way for an expanded Lidl car park if plans are approved

New milestone for £137m Metro project

PLANS to extend the Midland Metro through Birmingham city centre in a £137 million project have reached a new milestone.

A formal application has been submitted by the Midland Metro Alliance to build and operate the Birmingham Eastside extension from Bull Street to Digbeth.

If granted, the order will allow work to start on the 1.05 mile – 1.7km – extension which will serve the proposed HS2 station at Curzon Street, offering connections to New Street, Moor Street and Snow Hill train stations.

Work is due to begin in 2019 and the new line to open in 2023. The scheme will cost £137.2 million.

As well as linking all of the city centre rail stations, it will mean easy access to Birmingham coach station and to bus routes to the south-east of the city centre.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, West Midlands Combined Authority's lead member for transport, said: "The Birmingham Eastside extension will provide a direct high-quality link between significant areas of commercial and leisure activity to the east of the city centre, the Jewellery Quarter and the Black Country."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Getting lit up for the festive season

WHEELCHAIR tennis ace Jordanne Whiley MBE will do the honour of switching on her home town's Christmas lights on November 19 in Halesowen town centre.

Meanwhile, the annual Christmas lights switch on at the Merry Hill shopping centre will take place in October. The event, featuring a programme of live entertainment has taken place in November for the last two years, but it will be staged more than a fortnight earlier, on October 28. Further details of the event have yet to be announced.

Potential buyer for market hall

BRIERLEY Hill's historic market hall looks set to be sold within weeks, it has been revealed.

Discussions with a potential new owner of the landmark High Street building are said to be at an advanced stage.

The building was put up for sale in May by the family firm which have owned it for generations. It is believed it could sell for as much as £1 million.

Market hall manager Wayne Jones said he did not expect the imminent sale to affect the town's indoor market.

Petition to save store is growing

THE petition set up to save Sainsbury's in Merry Hill has now been signed more than 260 concerned shoppers.

Supermarket bosses had earmarked the long-established store for closure on December 30, leaving 193 jobs at risk, after saying that branch is 'underperforming'.

But the petitioners question how the store can be unprofitable, saying 'thousands shop there every week'. It opened in 1989.

Work begins on new HQ for castings firm

MANUFACTURING firm Thomas Dudley has started work on a new multi-million-pound head office.

Based on the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, the company produces castings and high quality bathroom fittings.

The company is still owned by the Dudley family who founded the business in 1920, and it now employs around 350 people. The company has outgrown its current office block, built in the 1970s.

Water burst delays

MOTORISTS faced delays in the Black Country after a water main burst in Coseley on Monday.

The main in Vicarage Road ruptured at around 4pm.

The burst closed the street between the Birmingham New Road and Central Drive.

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TV switches from programmes to adverts with no warning. One moment we were wincing in horror at the young sheep with a huge, shiny, prolapsed rectum in The Yorkshire Vet (C5), the next we were invited to try a gourmet break in a Yorkshire hotel, featuring tender, glistening burgers. I bet they didn't get many inquiries.

ALL the political parties are pledged to build more homes. So where will they go? I drove across to Cambridge this week and then back via Bedford. It was like one vast new housing estate. I lost count of the number of part-built streets, gobbling up meadows which have been farmed for a thousand years. The irony is that having destroyed all vestiges of Saxon farming, developers choose names such as Saxon Way.

I BET there is not a woman in the land who doesn't not understand why Diane James stood down as the leader of Ukip only 18 days after being elected. It is an impossible position. If you fail, you will be denounced and vilified. If you succeed, you'll have to have another kiss from Nigel Farage.



I LOVE the latest suggestion from Whitehall that restaurants serving huge pudding portions should be "named and shamed" in the fight against obesity. But if eateries decided to reduce pudding portions for the common good, what would happen next? We have seen it with punters who avoid high prices for pub and club booze by "preloading" beforehand with a bottle or two of vodka. I can imagine serious noshers stuffing themselves with pudding before even arriving at the restaurant. Behold, a new social evil, pre-loading on spotted dick.

TWO institutions. Both depend on public donations. Both help people let down by government agencies. So why is Children in Need a national treasure of which we are proud, but food banks are a national disgrace of which we are ashamed?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Filipino nurses delay due to English test

THERE are delays in nurses from the Philippines starting work at Dudley Group NHS Trust because they haven't passed English language tests.

More than 130 recruits from the Far East had been expected to start work next month, but at a meeting of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's board it was revealed only nine have passed their IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test, and they aren't likely to start at the trust until March.

By Judith Hawkins

Chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We've had nine Filipino nurses pass the IELTS and they are currently going through the visa process, but there are still 80 plus waiting. We've provided them with additional support, with a training programme out in the Philippines to help them with the English language test. We are pushing to get these nurses here for March – there is an additional cost for April 1."

Frustrating

Ms Wardell also said that there were approximately 100 vacancies at the trust, although they had not had the latest figures in terms of leavers and starters.

Asked after the meeting on Thursday for further details on the delay, Ms Wardell said: "Recruiting from overseas is a lengthy process and it is frustrating that it is taking longer than anticipated to start our new recruits in post. Overseas candidates must pass a rigorous IELTS English language test followed by the CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) computer competence test via the NMC (Nursing & Midwifery Council). Once passed, they then begin their visa application.

"After they arrive in the UK, candidates must then pass a practical competence test via the NMC. The nine candidates from the Philippines are now taking their computer literacy tests."

Among those to express concern on the board was Andrew McMenemy, director of Human Resources at the trust.

"We are putting a significant amount of energy going into this and its still not bearing fruit," he said during the meeting. "We might be better putting our energy into something more localised."

Anger as rubbish uncollected



Ray Drew with the bags of rubbish left outside Cradley Library for nearly three months

BAGS of garden waste, soil, branches and slabs have been left outside a library – 11 weeks after concerned residents tidied up the area and asked the council to take the rubbish away.

As of the start of this week the rubbish was yet to be collected by Dudley Council from outside Cradley Library, despite neighbour Ray Drew calling the authority about it on several occasions.

Mr Drew, his wife and daughter decided to clean up the library garden, with help from councillors and library staff in the summer.

Mr Drew, aged 72, who has lived in Colley Lane for 40 years, said: "The front garden was in a terrible state and it was a reflection on our property. So we decided to get together and remove the weeds and then put new seeds down to make it look smarter.

"We bagged it all up and left it on the site of the garden and thought the council would come and collect it. But 11 weeks on still nothing has been done."

A spokesman for Dudley Council said that the green waste was in the process of being moved.

Concern at cancer survival figures

A BLACK Country healthcare group is failing cancer patients, according to NHS bosses.

The Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been named among the worst in the country for cancer care and was told that it must improve.

More than a third of cancer patients in the area the CCG serves die within a year of being diagnosed, figures have revealed. Bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG promised an urgent review.

The picture is also bleak in other parts of the Black Country. In Walsall less than half of patients are given early diagnosis before cancer has spread. In Dudley just under a third of patients die within a year of being diagnosed with the survival rate at 67.3 per cent. None of the CCGs which cover the region have one-year survival rates above 70 per cent.

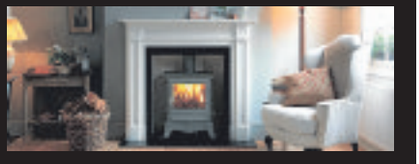
Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG is among 24 in England which have been graded as having the 'greatest need for improvement'.

A total of 53.6 per cent of patients received early diagnosis. Only 65.8 per cent of patients survive more than a year after being diagnosed.

However, the CCG was the best performing in the region when it came to beginning treatment within two months of diagnosis.

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HC 131016

The Free Wills Month charities are paying for a limited number of simple Wills. If your Will is complex, you can pay the solicitor for extra advice. There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.

freewillsmonth.org.uk

Hospice in move with tech firm

ACORNS Children's Hospice has joined together with a start-up technology firm to help it reach out to and engage with health and social care providers.

Birmingham-based Platinum Videos has produced a short animated 'explainer' video for Acorns in a bid to encourage more statutory funding bodies to consider using the charity's services. The film follows the story of 'Ellie', a child living with a life shortening condition, and shows the pressure this can place on the family.

Through colourful graphics, the animation highlights how Acorns can help to reduce this stress and pressure and promote resilience in the family.

Jenny Lake, statutory sector engagement officer, said: "We turned to Platinum Videos to help us get across to commissioners and other health and social care professionals how our care provision can in turn reduce demand on other services and help to meet future health and social care provision challenges."

Platinum Videos set up in April this year and was founded by business graduates Dan Stewart and Mitch Blackham. To watch the explainer video visit www.player.vimeo.com.video/183967384

Museum's hunt for creepy critters

YOUNGSTERS are invited to go on a hunt for rats and spiders as part of a special event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The Creepy Critters event is from October 22 to 30 at the museum on Tipton Road, Dudley. Fearless youngsters will be able to explore and learn about the pests that plagued the Black Country in the old days, and get hands on with some crafts. Visit www.bclm.co.uk/events/creepy-critters

High-fives attack thugs are jailed for 'abhorrent' violence

TWO thugs who high-fived each other after an 'abhorrent' attack on two innocent people in Dudley town centre have been jailed.

Nathan Cooper and Ryan O'Toole, of Tipton, left one victim lying motionless in the street after punching and kicking him to the ground following a night out. CCTV played to Wolverhampton Crown Court captured Cooper, aged 26, and O'Toole, 22, pursuing two men down Union Street before launching the unprovoked assault on May 28.

It shows O'Toole gesticulating towards the targets while Cooper throws punches to the head of one man. O'Toole then floors one of the men with a punch.

He gets back up only to be knocked to the ground again, hitting his head on the floor. O'Toole then high-fives Cooper who proceeds to stamp the stricken man in the groin before landing a kick to the head of the second man as he stoops to tend to his friend.

The first victim suffered a half-inch cut to his head and could not remember the attack. Freezing the CCTV during the final stages of the assault, prosecutor Mark Philips said: "At this point Carl Taylor is lying on the ground bleeding from a head injury and bleeding heavily. His friend Mark Channer is bending down over him tending to him. He is kneeling down not looking when he gets kicked in the head (by Cooper)."

Prosecutor Mr Mark Philips read out a victim impact statement which said: "I woke up in an ambulance and had no recollection of what happened. I am now fearful of going out to Dudley town centre or anywhere for fear of being attacked."

The second victim's statement said: "It was totally unprovoked and cowardly to hit someone as they are walking away." Cooper, of Sherwood Avenue, and O'Toole of Central Avenue, both admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm.



Nathan Cooper, jailed for a year



Ryan O'Toole, caught on CCTV

A month after the incident Cooper was found driving whilst intoxicated above the legal limit and was disqualified, the court heard.Recorder Mr Geoffrey Pryce described the attack as 'abhorrent, cowardly, persistent and violent'.He jailed them both for a year each and said: "It is sickening to see a man fall to the ground motionless, but you give each other a high-five satisfied with your joint work."

Mr Philip Brunt, defending the pair, said they were retaliating to a disagreement from earlier on that night. He added: "Everybody makes mistakes and these two have behaved terribly."

Cat's the way to impress for apprentice

A VISIT to an engineering training centre saw one of the country's most senior ministers presented with a 3D printed model of Gladstone, HM Treasury's famous cat, by a Walsall apprentice. David Gauke, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and number two to the Chancellor, was touring the hi-tech training centre run by manufacturers' organisation EEF in Aston when he received his unusual gift from Tom Middleton.

High-flying Tom, aged 21, is one of the first of the EEF's new intake of HNC students at the centre and was chosen to make the presentation due to his impressive record since leaving Walsall Academy after his A-levels, becoming a higher level apprentice rather than going to university.

Ideal

Tom works at weighing machine manufacturer Ishida's site on Birmingham's Woodgate Business Park, combining his apprenticeship with a job that has just seen him return from three weeks working with client Proctor & Gamble in the USA.

He proved to be the ideal candidate to talk to the Treasury secretary about the benefits of apprenticeships. He said: "When I talk to my friends who went to university, I have no regrets. It has enabled me to build up terrific experience and offered me great opportunities."

As well as winning a regional award as a first-year apprentice, Tom is now in the running for a high achievement award. "Mr Gauke was very interested in hearing about my experiences training at the EEF, and the benefits of an apprenticeship in contrast to the usual university career path," said Tom.

The visit by the Treasury Chief Secretary marked the official launch of the centre's new higher education programme, including HNCs and HNDs, and allowed him to see how work is progressing on its ambitious multi-million pound expansion.

The Chief Secretary met some of EEF's first intake of higher education students, including Tom, to hear about their career ambitions and future plans.



Apprentice Tom Middleton seen with the 3D model and David Gauke

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Colourful language for the 'too close' car

HUMBLE pie time. A few weeks ago I said the reason modern technology was so boring was down to the fact that anything that served any useful purpose had already been invented, and that supposedly new developments were mostly either gimmicks or variations on an old theme.

But then along come those crazy South Koreans to prove me wrong, with the invention we have all been waiting for.

Kiss On The Road is a set of paint nodules which have been fitted to a little Hyundai hatchback, which sprays messages onto the road behind.

Its creators suggest that eventually it could be used to spray road safety messages, such as alerting drivers behind to a crash ahead, but to begin with it is most likely to be used by the advertising industry.

They're missing a trick. If I bought one, it wouldn't be to sell anything, or to tell the people behind me to wear a seatbelt or inform them that tiredness kills. But it would be deployed every time somebody in a mid-range German saloon car feels the need to drive within six inches of my back bumper on the motorway flashing their headlights.

I think "back off" painted in large letters on the bonnet would communicate the message beautifully...

❐❐❐

IMAGINE you are elderly or vulnerable, or maybe a mother out with two young children. How would you feel if some juvenile delinquent in a creepy clown's mask jumped out brandishing a plastic knife?

This latest craze has already led to a 13-year-old boy being arrested in West Bromwich, and I don't suppose he will be the last.

What is it with these people? Can't they just stick to skulking in darkened bedrooms slaying zombies on their computers, or whatever it is they do?

Sooner or later one of them will come a cropper and pick on the wrong person, and my gut reaction is it would serve them right.

However, I bet they will be the first to go squealing to the law if anyone lays a finger on them. They will probably say it's a hate crime.

❐❐❐

AM I the only one who is sick of hearing embittered EU supporters complaining that they don't know what Brexit looks like?

Surely that is the point. It is about the freedom to shape our nation, without interference from the former president of Luxembourg.

If the political establishment don't know what Brexit looks like, perhaps they should do what they are paid for and come up with some ideas. Then we will tell them whether we like it or not.



The Duchess of Cambridge hands a medal to Mr Yarrington



War veterans and amputees gathered at Hednesford Town



Prince Harry has a chat with Sapper Clive Smith

Night to celebrate heroes of conflict

A sum of £2,000 was raised as veterans relived some of their most traumatic experiences. JESSICA LABHART reports

IT was night of music, smiles and celebration, even though some of those in the crowd had gone through some of the most traumatic experiences of war.

Veterans from across the West Midlands came together to share their life-changing experiences of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a charity fundraiser for Help for Heroes. The night raised more than £2,000.

It revealed some of the harrowing experiences suffered by the veterans who are still on the road to recovery.

Scott Yarrington, aged 31, of Bloxwich was in the army in 2005, with the Irish Guards. He served in Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2010. Whilst in Afghanistan on December 29, 2010, he was in charge of searching for improvised explosive devices along a bridge area when he stepped on it, losing both his legs.

Transferred

Mr Yarrington said: "I just started screaming because the pain was hitting me. I woke up in the QE hospital in Birmingham."

He spent two months in the QE, before being transferred to Headley Court – the specialist defence medical rehabilitation centre near Surrey. At the start of May 2011 he met his now fiancée Rachel Andrews, aged 28, and the pair later had son Alfie, aged three, following IVF treatment.

He is now helping young cadets learn the ropes as part of the Mercian Regiment.

His inspirational story was one of many on the night.

Clive Smith, aged 31, who lives in Walsall, also stepped on an explosive device when he was in Afghanistan on October 13, 2010. He lost both legs. Despite being conscious throughout the ordeal, Sapper Smith's main concern was the wellbeing of his comrades, who rushed to his aid as he lay bleeding in the battlefield. Within 36 hours he was flown to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Mr Smith, a Wolves fan originally from Cannock, was later transferred to Headley Courtand also spent time at the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall. The centre, funded by the Royal British Legion, helps sick and wounded service personnel recover.

Since having artificial legs, he has competed in the men's hand bike time trial, IHB2 class, at the Invictus Games at the Olympic Park in London. At Molineux, he has presented the match ball and been named Championship fan of the month.

In 2012 he was chosen as the face of the Royal British Legion's National Poppy Appeal.

Speaking of what it meant to be at the charity fundraiser, Mr Smith said: "I think it's important for us to come together like this to raise the profile of Help for Heroes and also to show people that there is life after serious injury. "

Dave Watson, of Birmingham, aged 30, was in Afghanistan in 2010 when he was on patrol, tasked to find an improvised explosive device. He was the 50th man in a group of 53, and turned to help a fellow solider who had fallen down. As he twisted to turn, he took a wrong step on to the explosive device. He lost both legs and his right forearm.

Mr Watson has since undergone extensive rehabilitation and has not let his injuries hold him back. After a £120,000 operation in Australia, funded by his compensation from the army, to give him high-quality prosthetic legs, he has completed 15 skydives, five abseils, and goes skiing and waterskiing. He is also a respected discus, shot put and javelin thrower. He is in training for both the Invictus Games and the Paralympic Games in 2020.

Event organiser Andy Sawyer said: "It was absolutely unbelievable, we raised £2,180.

"Half will go to Team Ditcher Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2017 in aid of Help the Heroes. We will and donating the other half to Veterans' Lifeline.

"It's not often that veterans have a chance to meet up and talk about their experiences, but also raise money for a good cause and ultimately, have a good time, so I'm really pleased with how everything has gone.."

Veterans' Lifeline has been set up by former solider Nick Perry, 41, of Liverpool who joined the army at 16 and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He set up the charity to help veterans struggling with post-traumatic-stress and other issues to overcome their difficulties."



Guardsman Scott Yarrington, of Bloxwich



Clive Smith from Walsall



David Watson, of Birmingham

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It's time to honour another Dudley hero

REGARDING The Duncan Edwards Memorial Plaque. As a cousin of Duncan Edwards I share the pride in his achievements voiced by Dudley MP Ian Austin.

However, I must take issue with the claims of Cllr Tyler – Duncan was not the first local footballer to make it 'to the big time', Ray Westwood (Bolton Wanderers) was capped six times for England between 1934/6.

There is a family connection between them, and Ray served in The Eighth Army during World War II, as did another former member of the Brierley Hill Schools team that spawned a number of good players, Arthur Brearley.

He and Ray met up on the advance to Rome and liberated several bottles of Chianti to reminisce.

I believe that Cllr Tyler also has ambition towards honouring another Dudley legend, Billy Dainty. My parents and his parents and his aunt and uncle were close friends. His mother made my wife's wedding bouquet at their shop in Wolverhampton Street.

I last saw Billy in his dressing room at the Pier Theatre, Great Yarmouth, in a few hours of respite during parachute/battle training at Thetford prior to the Suez crisis.

If a plaque to Billy is organised I trust they will not forget his sister Betty who spent her show business career with the Cyril Fletcher Show.

They both grew up in a house close to the junction of Burton Road and The Broadway.

TERRY BREARLEY
Kingswinford

A Grand night out with Justin

WE went to the fabulously updated Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, what a wonderful refurbishment on this wonderful Victoria theatre – well worth a visit!

We went to see the also fabulous Justin Hayward. He played for about two hours, some new songs from his new album All The Way and some of his mighty Moody Blues classics. He is a very emotional songwriter and singer.

He's a very accomplished guitarist and was backed by Mike Dawes, superb acoustic guitarist in his own right, also on stage with a lady keyboard player (sorry don't know her name) who was also excellent.

It's amazing that he can play for two hours performing mostly his own songs and material. He could have spent eight hours more as his back list is massive.

A great night all told and well worth seeing. Justin Hayward is a class act!

MICHAEL HANKIN
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Amiable Sir Terry's humour is missed

DURING my years driving as a sales representative, I remember very fondly listening to Sir Terry Wogan, just gabbling on about all sorts of 'rubbish'.

In addition to all of the housebound listeners, he kept us 'motorists' entertained.

Fondly I recall his references to the Nuneaton 'pyramids', the Northampton 'lighthouse' and the Milton Keynes 'concrete cows'.

Regarding these items, some friends and my wife and I were driving south on the M1 on our way to France for a holiday. We were keeping in touch via 'CB Radio' and I was regaling Terry's remarks about the above items. A lorry driver butted in and said 'their ain't any lighthouses in Northampton or pyramids in Nuneaton'.

I also wrote to Sir Terry about 'builders cooking their breakfasts on a shovel over their fires'. And about the Government 'laying off the millions of people who were employed to wash the glass cats eyes'. He made a great play of these items.

Terry, we miss your voice. God bless.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Testaments fit for our Duncan

MY congratulations go out to all the people involved in acknowledging one the true legends of English football.

On October 1 the blue plaque was unveiled in Dudley by another of our footballing legends Sir Bobby Charlton. It was a testament to his love of a team-mate that he made the journey to pay his own tribute to our own Duncan Edwards.

I was honoured to interview Rose Cook on the Omma n' Chain show I host for Black Country Radio and feel the obvious passion she has held for the story of the quite unique sportsman.

We hear so much about what is wrong within sport but here we can really feel there was a human being that rose above it all.

His statue and now the plaque are fitting testaments to a hero that will stay in our hearts for generations to come.

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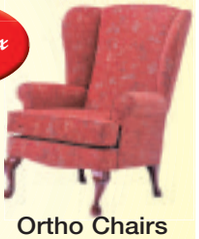
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Family is taking legal action over holiday hell

A FAMILY whose two-week holiday to the Dominican Republic was ruined by gastric illness are furious after being offered just £50 off their next trip by the travel company.

Kristie and Mark Hughes, from Stourbridge, are now taking legal action after they and their children Jade, aged 19, and Daniel, 11, fell ill at the four star Memories Splash Punta Cana resort.

They claim there were hygiene failings at the resort, including birds and flies hovering over food, but tour operator First Choice has only agreed to the small discount to recompense the family.

Mrs Hughes said: "We were really looking forward to the holiday and the opportunity to really relax as a family, what we experienced was anything but.

Problems

"There were problems with the hotel from the off with eggs not cooked properly, there were birds in the restaurant and flies over the food.

"Once we noticed we were so careful, but in the end it was too late."

Daniel fell ill with vomiting. The following day, Kirstie, Mark and Jade all began suffering gastric symptoms.

Mrs Hughes added: "When First Choice contacted us to offer us £50 off our next holiday we were stunned and then disgusted. It just added insult to injury."

They were so outraged at the response that the family have instructed legal firm Irwin Mitchell to take on their case.

Jatinder Paul, international personal injury lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "What the Hughes family experienced was incredibly distressing."

A First Choice spokesman said the company monitored resorts where it operated to ensure hygiene was in line with industry standards.

By Judith Hawkins

Black Country HQ for car restoring TV show



Fuzz Towshend (left) with presenter Tim Shaw have found a Black Country base for their hit TV show

A HIT TV show in which classic cars are restored to their former glory has launched a new base in the Black Country.

Fuzz Townshend, one of the presenters of Channel 4's Car SOS – and also the former drummer in Stourbridge based Pop Will Eat Itself – will be filming the latest series of the show at a garage unit at the Springfield industrial estate in Oldbury.

In the show, presenter Tim Shaw and former Dudley bus mechanic Fuzz take on restoration projects which have proved beyond owners' ambitions.

Townshend and business partner Dave Tassell run To-Ta Classics and have agreed a five-year lease on the 5,548 sq ft unit on the industrial estate, which is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties.

"These are exciting times. To-Ta Classics sees myself and Dave Tassell join forces in a purpose-equipped workshop – a top class classic car maintenance. It will also be the base for the next series of Car SOS," said Fuzz.

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Hairy Bikers will be in the Supertheatre



Festive tips from James Martin

COMPETITION

Tuck in ready for the festive food season

THE flagship BBC Good Food Show returns to the Birmingham's NEC next month to set visitors up for the perfect festive, foodie season.

And you could be there. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Stock up on everything you need at the BBC Good Food Show, November 24-27. Enjoy live entertainment, great shopping, be inspired by top chefs and taste exciting new flavours.

Join a stellar line up of chefs and experts including Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Raymond Blanc and Michel Roux Jr, the Hairy Bikers and NEW this year, Nadiya Hussain as they bring their favourite seasonal dishes to life in the Supertheatre.

Plus pick up top tips for the Christmas season from James Martin and other guests on the Winter Kitchen.

Hear more from your culinary heroes in live interviews on the BBC Good Food Stage hosted by the BBC Good Food cookery team, and get your cook books signed by the authors themselves.

Stock up on all the treats and tipples you'll need to see you through the winter in the various shopping areas around the Show, including The Producers' Village, a huge speciality food market, The Bakes & Cakes Village and the Christmas Shopping Market.

Be inspired with ideas for festive entertaining, tempting tastes and great shopping from hundreds of regional and seasonal producers, plus plenty of festive spirit – the tastiest way to get warmed up for the season.

goodfood SHOW

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer this question.

What is the Producers' Village?

Send answers on postcard with name, address and phone number to Good Food Show competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11. Closing date: Thursday, October 20.

Tickets are general admission only, excluding Saturday and excluding Supertheatre. Supertheatre tickets can be bought on the day for an additional £3, subject to availability. Not all celebrities appear on all days, see the website for details.









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Tues 22 Nov. 14.30-16.30 3 wks. £21.60#

COMPUTER COURSES
(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY
Tues 1 Nov. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £28.80#
Tues 15 Nov. 9.30-11.30. 4 wks. £28.80#

AN INTRODUCTION TO IPAD
Tues 6 Dec. 09.30-11.30 1 wk. £7.20#

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR IPAD
Tues 15 Nov. 09.30-11.30 3 wks. £21.60#

PHOTOSHOP 2
Mon 31 Oct. 9.30-11.30 6 wks. £43.20#

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

Inters:	Mon 31 Oct.	19.00-21.00.	6 wks.	£40.20#
Improvers:	Tues 27 Nov.	19.00-21.00.	6 wks.	£40.20#
Advanced:	Thurs 22 Nov.	19.00-21.00.	6 wks.	£40.20#

ITALIAN

Cont Beg:	Mon 19 Nov.	14.30-16.00.	6 wks.	£32.40#
Improvers:	Mon 19 Nov.	12.00-14.00.	6 wks.	£40.20#

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE **NEW**
Introduction: Thurs 3 Nov. 19.00-21.00. 4 wks. £28.80#

ARTS AND CRAFTS

CREATIVE WRITING
Mon 31 Oct. 19.00-21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

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Tues 1 Nov. 09.30-11.30. 6 wks. £40.20#

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ADULT SWIMMING: Mon. 12.30-13.15 £3.50
Thurs.19.00-20.00. £3.50
AQUAFIT: Wed. 12.30-13.15, Fri.12.30-13.15. £3.50.
Wed.19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £4.50
FITNESS SWIM: for 10-19 yrs olds Mon. 18.00-18.45. £3.00

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PATCHWORK FOR CHRISTMAS **NEW**
Mon 31 Oct. 19.00-21.00 5 wks. £36.00#

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS **NEW** Family Learning
The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.
Thurs 24 Nov. 16.00-17.30 2 wks. £10.00#

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PILATES

Improvers:	Tues 1 Nov.	19.00-20.00.	6 wks.	£21.60
Improvers:	Wed 2 Nov.	18.30-19.30.	6 wks.	£21.60
Improvers:	Thurs 3 Nov.	19.05-20.05.	6 wks.	£21.60
Improvers:	Thurs 3 Nov .	20.10-21.10.	6 wks.	£21.60

FITNESS YOGA
Tues 1 Nov. 20.05-21.05. 6 wks. £21.60

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beginners:	Mon 31 Oct .	19.00-19.45.	6 wks.	£18.90#
Improvers:	Mon 31 Oct .	19.45-20.30.	6 wks.	£18.90#
Advanced:	Mon 31 Oct .	20.30-21.15.	6 wks.	£18.90#
Beginners:	Tues 1 Nov.	19.00-19.45.	6 wks.	£18.90#
Beginners:	Tues 1 Nov.	19.45-20.30.	6 wks.	£18.90#

DANCE

DANCE FIT
Tues 1 Nov. 18.00-19.00 6 wks. £21.60
Tues 1 Nov. 19.10-20.10 6 wks. £21.60

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR

Intermediates:	Mon 31 Oct.	19.00-21.00	6 wks.	£40.20#
Beginners:	Tues 1 Nov.	19.00-20.30	6 wks.	£32.40#
Improvers :	Thurs 1 Nov.	19.00-20.30	6 wks.	£32.40#

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)

Beginners L1	Mon 31 Oct.	16.45-17.45	6 wks.	£54.90
Beginners L2	Mon 31 Oct.	17.45-18.45	6 wks.	£54.90
Improvers	Thurs 3 Nov.	17.45-18.45	6 wks.	£54.90

L1 = Level 1 L2 = Level 2

QUALIFICATIONS

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE LEVEL 1 **NEW**
Thurs 12 Jan 17. 19.00-21.00. 11 wks.
Price to be confirmed. Please register your interest.

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Tues 3 Jan 17. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20

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Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 24th to 30th October unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

PLEASE NOTE: A 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments processed through Dudley MBC . Debit card payments remain unchanged.

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Fri 11 Nov. 12.30-14.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE
Fri 25 Nov. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £27.90#

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER
Fri 25 Nov. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £27.90#

FIRST AID

EMERGENCY FIRST AID
Fri 11 Nov. 9.00-12.00. 2 wks. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID.
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Fri 9 Dec. 9.00-13.00 1/2 day. £25.60

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	Sat 5 Nov.	09.00-09.30.	6 wks.	£15.00#
NEW	Sun 6 Nov.	13.30-14.15.	6 wks.	£22.50#

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY
NEW Tue 17 Jan 17. 16:00-17.30 5 wks. £22.50#

NEW COURSES for 2017
Please call to register your interest

CAKES AND CAKE DECORATING
Tues 17 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

HEALTHY COOKING
Thurs. 19 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#
Thurs. 2 Mar. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

PUDDINGS
Tues 28 Feb. 19.00 - 21.30. 5 wks. £36.00#

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Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Leaders listen to public concerns

DUDLEY residents had their say at an event to influence community safety priorities across the borough.

The 'Dudley: have your say' event was held on September 28 and organised by Safe & Sound, Dudley's community safety partnership. It gave people the opportunity to highlight priorities for the coming year.

Those attending took part in workshops and also had chance to ask questions directly to a panel of decision makers from organisations including the council, police, fire service and clinical commissioning group. Partners are now committed to using the feedback and working towards addressing concerns.

Councillor Judy Foster, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "This event gave residents the opportunity to raise their concerns and talk about how communities can work with the partnership to make Dudley a safer borough. I was particularly pleased to see the number of young people."

Pub landlord who loved the Black Country has died aged 93

THE former landlord of one of the Black Country's historic real ale pubs has died, just short of his 94th birthday.

Reg Hooper, born in Amblecote in 1922, ran the Foley Arms, Brierley Hill, with his late wife, Ethel, in the late 1970s.

The pub, now known as The Wellington, fronted the famous Simpkiss brewery in Brettell Lane, Silver End.

After leaving school aged 14, Reg became a tiler. In 1942 he was one of the first recruits to the newly formed RAF Regiment set up to guard airfields.

Two years later he transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Coldstream Guards and served in Italy until 1946.

After the war Reg and Ethel, who had married in 1942, went into the pub trade, starting at the Kings Head at Old Hill.

Firm

At the same time Reg founded his own business in ceramic wall and floor tiling with eventually up to a dozen tilers employed by the firm.

Reg and Ethel lived in Cradley before taking on the stewardship of the Churchill and Blakedown Golf Club for three years and then moving to the Foley Arms.

On retirement they moved to Forest Houses at Callow Hill, Bewdley, and finally to a bungalow in Newnham Bridge, near Tenbury Wells.

The couple were both keen on Black Country history and joined the Wyre Forest branch of the Black Country Society. They were enthusiastic members of Sing Wi' We, a senior choir.

Reg and Ethel were married for 67 years until her death in 2010 at the age of 88. Reg, who passed away in Tenbury Wells Hospital on October 3, is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, two grand-daughters, six great-grandchildren, and five brothers and sisters.

The funeral will be at 1.30pm at Stourbridge Crematorium on Tuesday.



Reg and Ethel Hooper

Thousand new blood donors

MORE than 1,000 new donors have signed up to give blood in the West Midlands after a two-week campaign.

The Missing Type campaign brought together 25 blood services across 21 countries in a global drive for donors, and saw 24,000 across England sign up, and 46,000 worldwide. In total, 1,067 donors signed up in the West Midlands.

Jon Latham, NHS Blood and Transplant's Assistant Director for Donor Services and Marketing, said: "We're so grateful to everybody that has come forward to become a new blood donor and to all the brands, organisations and people who showed their support.

"Blood donation is an amazing gift – every donation given can help save or transform up to three lives."

To sign up as a new donor, visit: www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23

Coffee morning raises £380 for Macmillan



Sainsbury's staff Julie Bate and Colleen Shakespeare

STAFF at Sainsbury's Amblecote held a Macmillan coffee morning in store raising hundreds of pounds for charity.

The event took place on September 30 and raised £380 for Macmillan, which was aided by customer and staff donations.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe, joined residents at the event to make his contribution.

Café worker Colleen Shakespeare, who supports the event in her own time each year said: "We were overwhelmed by the donations from our customers and very humbled to hear how Macmillan assists their families, who have been affected by cancer."

It was held as part of the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer.

The charity ask people all over the UK to host their own coffee mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan.

Last year alone the coffee mornings raised £25 million and this year they are hoping to have raised even more.

Pub boss delighted at real ale accolade

A BRIERLEY Hill pub is raising a glass in celebration having been listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2017.

The Waterfront Inn, on Level Street, has been given the honour in recognition of the quality of its real ale.

CAMRA's local branch members chose the Wetherspoon pub following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer. They also took into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

The pub's manager, Lucia Davies, said: "I am delighted that The Waterfront Inn has been recognised for the quality of its real ales by CAMRA members.

"We offer our customers an excellent range of real ales at all times, including those from regional brewers and microbrewers, as well as hosting our own beer festivals.

"Staff at the pub work hard to ensure that the real ales on offer are kept in first-class condition at all times and the pub's inclusion in the guide highlights this."

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A pump trailer with 'CWS DUDLEY' lettered in gold on the front



Old fire coats and hats were found in the disused fire station at the Dudley factory building



The Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley



The hoses are still in place after more than half a century gathering dust

Secret fire station found frozen in time at factory

A FIRE station frozen in time has been found hidden inside a Dudley factory.

The room, at the Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley, was discovered by staff and it appears to be have untouched for more than 60 years.

The room contains perfectly preserved uniforms, with the names of the wearers chalked above them. Scrawled names include I Silk, W Price and A Round.

Documents suggest the items date back to the early 1950s, when the local Co-op, which had its own fire brigade, operated from the building.

The shopfitting firm moved into the Hall Street site in 1986 but many corners have been left unexplored until now.

A gas mask and neatly rolled-up canvas hoses are seen hanging up on one wall inside the rediscovered fire service room.

Also on display is a certificate awarded to one of the men when the Dudley brigade entered competitions with other Co-op forces. There are even programmes from events dating from the 1950s.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Clare Butler

Marketing manager for the Alan Nuttall Partnership,Anna Bamford said: "I have only been with the company for about nine weeks and was really excited to hear about it.

"It had just been locked up and never opened again."

Information

She continued: "Something like this we were really keen to know more about it and speak to anyone who may have worked there in the past.

"At the minute, we have minimal information about it but, looking towards the future, we would love to think if any of the items could go on display – maybe at a fire station museum somewhere.

"Nothing has been touched, at the minute, and it's still covered in dust.

"If there is anyone who is interested in restoring it, or giving us some advice, we'd love to hear from them.

"I have already taken a call from a gentleman who used to go on holiday with one of the firefighters who used to work there too – so there's really interesting information coming in."

Matt Hornblower, Nuttall's operations director, said that the most impressive piece in there is a pump trailer, powered by an engine. It is still bright red, with 'CWS DUDLEY' proudly lettered in gold on the front.

Mr Hornblower added: "There's still air in its tyres and just a few spots of oil on the floor beneath."

Anyone with information about the room or who is interested in restoring the items, should call Anna Bamford on (01384) 245100 or email anna.bamford@nuttalls.co.uk

The factory was also munitions manufacturer during the First World War and later made Bean Cars.

It now employs more than 600 staff.



On the peg for some 60 years – a fireman's uniform found in the forgotten room at the Dudley factory

ADVERTISEMENT



Norma Aston – all my confidence is back

Strictly Stunning

Salsa dancer Norma's new smile would get a 'ten from Len'

A PICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the cameras and smart phones did their work.

But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years, but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like Strictly Come Dancing, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted.

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman who had a long-standing problem resolved by Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) with an implant retained over-denture."

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees.

"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told to go away and think things through before making a decision."



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great .

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it.

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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Taxi drivers to be eyes on street to combat abuse

TAXI drivers across Dudley borough have pledged their support in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

More than 1,000 hackney and private hire drivers, licensed by Dudley Council, are pledging to help tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) by being 'eyes and ears' on the streets.

All taxi drivers in the borough complete a CSE awareness session as part of their licence conditions, arming them with the knowledge they need to spot the signs of a young person being exploited.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association said: "The pledge shows the drivers' dedication to tackling this serious crime and protecting young people in our borough."

Meanwhile, using the message 'Could this be your child?' an ongoing digital awareness campaign is helping parents and carers identify the signs and how to get help.

There will also be a large digital roadside screen at the junction of the M6 and M5, and posters at Birmingham's New Street Station and at the NEC.

This is the latest phase of the 'See Me, Hear Me' campaign, launched in June 2014 by West Midlands councils and police to raise awareness.

It was recently revealed that almost 100 children in Dudley borough are at risk of being sexually exploited.

According to the Dudley Safeguarding Children Board, children aged between 11 and 17 had been identified in an investigation that found 95 youngsters deemed to be at risk of becoming victims of CSE. The majority – 87 – are girls.



Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association chairman Shaz Saleem holds the pledge with driver Mohammed Ali

Petition demands policing of parades

A PETITION has been launched calling for policing to be maintained for remembrance parades across the Black Country.

A cost-cutting change in policy by the West Midlands force, meaning responsibility for parade road closures now falls on organisers, has led to concerns future events could be put in doubt. But West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has vowed to work with councils to ensure roads can be closed free of charge for this year's Remembrance Day parades.

A deal for funding has already been struck with Walsall Council matching the police expenditure this year and a petition in Sandwell calls on the police to keep the same level of service for parades as in previous years.

Chiefs say local policing units would decide what police presence is appropriate at each event. But the force has insisted road closures 'must be a matter for event organisers' and that leaves many fearing high costs.

Dudley councillor Ken Finch, who helps organise the Gornal parade, said: "The police would love to help but, of course, they are under stress."

Three years behind bars for garden axe attack

A FORMER soldier, who carried an axe as he attacked the father of his pregnant partner – hours after the couple discovered their unborn child was a girl – is starting a three-year jail sentence.

Ross Wilkinson snapped after realising Chloe Lavender had gone with her parents for a meal to celebrate the result of the hospital scan without him, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

By John Scott

Days earlier disputes with her father Richard had led to the 23-year-old being asked to leave the family home in Lilac Road, Dudley, where he had lived for around six months.

The defendant, who left the army after two years aged 18, sent a text message to her mother during the meal that warned: "Don't push me out of my baby's life. It's my baby too."

Argument

This led to him having a phone argument with Chloe that prompted him to go to the family's home with an axe in a plastic bag to 'sort things out' shortly after midnight on June 10.

He leapt over a fence into the garden where Mr Lavender was smoking a cigarette, grabbed him round the throat and pushed him against the pebble-dashed wall of the house, said Mr Trevor Jones, prosecuting.

Both struggled to grab the bag which held the axe, during which Wilkinson received a bad cut to the back of his head, before Chloe managed to halt the melee.

Wilkinson threw a piece of metal at a car belonging to the family. It missed.

He told the court: "I was annoyed that Chloe and I had argued after having such a lovely day together and wanted to get it sorted.

"The family did not want me in a relationship with her and I was fed up with other people interfering in our business. Richard and I had a fight. I came off the worst but am just as much to blame as him."

Mr Jones told him: "You were obsessive and angry, could not control yourself and wanted to show the family who was the boss."

The defendant's claim to have found the axe at the property was dismissed by the judge.

Mr Will Rose, defending, said the only person injured by the axe was Wilkinson himself.

Wilkinson, of Spring Meadow, Dudley, admitted possession of an offensive weapon, assault and the unrelated burglary of a house in Halesowen on July 13.

He was made subject of a restraining order banning contact with Miss Lavender or her parents.

Enterprise partnership backs factory scheme

THE Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is supporting the project for a new manufacturing site for Steel & Alloy Processing in Oldbury.

It has given £54,000 through the Growth Deal to cover site investigation work for the former Albright High School site in Popes Lane, which shut in 2011.

Conditional contracts are in place between Trebor Developments and Steel & Alloy Processing to bring forward the major industrial development .

The proposed development of the 11.6 acre site will consist of a 300,000 sq ft manufacturing facility, which will significantly expand the manufacturing capacity of Steel & Alloy Processing.

Subject to approval of the reserved matters application, work is expected to commence on the site in spring of 2017 with it being operational by 2018, creating up to 80 jobs in the area.

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Social worker unit manager for fostering recruitment Jo Roberts with the mayor Councillor Barry Findlay and mayoress Margaret Findlay

Mayor backs campaign for extra foster carers

THE Mayor of Wolverhampton has supported the latest campaign to recruit more foster carers in the city.

He joined existing foster carers and social workers at Fostering for Wolverhampton's latest roadshow in Queen Square on Fostering to give his backing to the new Best Thing About Fostering campaign.

Launched by Wolverhampton Council last month, the appeal highlights the real-life experiences of carers in Wolverhampton who have shared what they think the best thing about being a foster carer is.

Mayor, Councillor Barry Findlay said: "I was delighted to meet some of our dedicated foster carers and hear about the fantastic support they give to vulnerable children and young people in Wolverhampton.

"More than 200 people, including individuals and couples, already foster for Wolverhampton, but we always need more and I would encourage people who have ever considered fostering to seize the moment and find out more about this vitally important role."

Reasons

There are lots of reasons why people decide to foster, and the Best Thing campaign showcases some of them. One carer said the best thing about fostering was seeing her foster child "blossom into a lovely little boy", while another said it was "seeing their confidence increase and their behaviour improve at school".

One carer said the best thing about fostering was "that these children have been able to experience a loving, supportive family environment" while another said it had "made us go back to our family values."

Foster carers can be single, married or in a relationship and help and support is available 24 hours a day. Placements can be anything from a few days to a number of years, and they receive a regular, tax exempt allowance to cover the cost of bringing up the child.

Support

Councillor Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "Our foster carers receive six months' support from experienced carers who will guide them through the system, and we also provide intensive support for the first six weeks of a placement and every month thereafter.

"The Fostering for Wolverhampton team are keen to speak to people who are interested in fostering, so please contact them as soon as possible."

For more information about fostering for Wolverhampton, please visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/fostering, call 01902 551133 or search Fostering for Wolves on Facebook.

Alternatively, meet members of the team at the next Fostering Friday event, taking place in Queen Square on November 4 from 10am-3pm, or the next fostering information evening, taking place at Molineux Stadium on November 16 from 6.30-8pm.

Home decor changes offer chance to be creative

STYLE FOCUS



with Janet Timmis

I HAVE been married for over 30 years and am surprised at how homewares and our need for home decoration has changed so dramatically in that time.

I remember my father advising that we buy a 'G Plan' sofa that would last for at least 25 years as was the way when they were married. We did buy an expensive suite, often used a trampoline by our young son, and in no time at all Ikea were selling fabulous product for a tenth of the price.

Today we, as a nation, change our room décor, including furniture and accessories every few years for considerably less than the price of that G Plan sofa!

The new trends can be integrated into our lives so easily, and I have friends who decorate their home on a revolving basis, constantly updating and changing their living environment room after room, including kitchen, bathrooms and their outdoor space.

The new shabby chic look with its upcycled theme involves a search for the right items to adorn with the latest paint effect and colour and the second hand shops and charity shops have increased their prices to benefit from the popularity, the DIY shops selling every possible paint, trim and handle to complete the look.

The newsagent's shelves offer a plethora of magazines to persuade us to inspire our lives, already the Christmas issues suggest decoration for the season of goodwill.

Theme

I am certainly planning to accessorise my bathroom for the benefit of our guests! Many people I know theme their house and Christmas tree in the seasons trend colour.

This week I have walked around Ikea and watched the young and old design their homes as they pass every possible piece of furniture and toning accessory, filling that iconic yellow bag with many unrequired items.

We see the newest of ideas on the television daily, the reality shows such as Grand Designs, Fill your house for free and DIY SOS bring us the seasonal colours and trends and magazine shoots in the fashion publications use the latest furniture and styles in the backgrounds.

Homeware designers follow the same trend forecasting used for the fashion industry, bringing ideas from around the world and the different cultures to touch our lives with sumptuous adornments.

Our parents had less external influences, they had less money to spend on their homes and bought to last, teaming the items with those pieces handed down through the family, items of value, those items we avoid in our contemporary lives. There was so much less on offer to them.

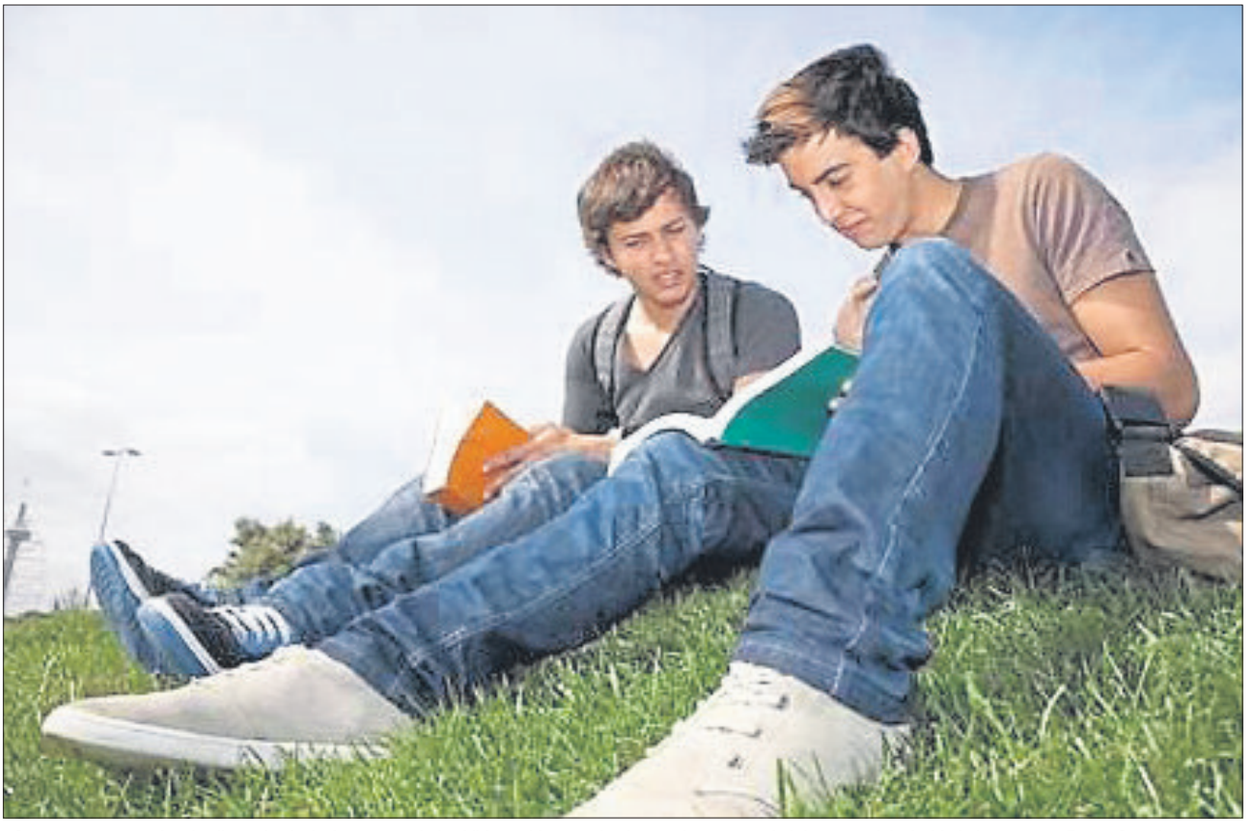
The most important aspect to our living space should be comfort, coziness, relaxation and restfulness, whatever makes you happy in that personal space. This years trend should be from your own inspirations.

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Home interiors regularly change



One-to-one support in a family setting is the best way to help children with a care background overcome their issues and deal with their past, says Foster Care Associates

Bridging the gap with role as foster parents



Short-term placements are available

AS parents see their children leave home and make their first steps towards independent living at university, a leading independent fostering agency says that becoming a foster carer is a natural transition for many parents once their own children have flown the nest.

By Sophie Madden

Foster Care Associates (FCA) says that this stage in life could be an ideal opportunity for many parents to consider fostering – turning what to many is a feeling of emptiness into a positive experience, whilst making a huge difference to a young person's life.

Commonly known as empty nest syndrome it describes the mixed emotions experienced by many parents when their children leave home – either to go to university or just move on to independent living.

With an estimated 9,070 new foster carers needed in 2016, FCA is keen to hear from experienced parents who may find that they now have the extra time and room to offer a secure and loving home a to a young person in need.

Mark Costello, chief executive officer of FCA, said: "Becoming a foster carer takes resilience, patience and understanding, something that parents of older teenagers have in spades, along with a wealth of life experience.

Issues

"Although some parents view their children leaving home as a liberating time, many find it hard to suddenly have no children at home who need their care, and have a difficult time adjusting to an empty home – this is why we'd urge people to consider fostering.

"We've been working with children and young people for 21 years and our experience shows that one-to-one support in a family setting is the best way to help children with a care background overcome their issues and deal with their past."

For those parents who are only able to provide care during term time FCA offer short term fostering placements for children and young people who require temporary care.

Often this is because their families are unable to look after them during a particular time.

This could be because their parents or guardians are unwell, they're unable to cope at that time, or the child is waiting to be adopted.

FCA provides ongoing comprehensive support to all foster carers including training, a financial allowance, access to carer support groups and organised family activities – all contributing factors as to why FCA placements are 22 per cent more stable than the national average.

For more information on becoming a foster carer with FCA, and to find out more about forthcoming regional events call 0800 022 4330 or visit the website www.thefca.co.uk.

Force misconduct probes take longer

CONDUCTING probes into alleged police misconduct in the West Midlands takes the force an average of 250 days to complete, new figures reveal.

The timescale has been questioned by Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, who said it has increased since 2012, when it took around 50 days to complete an investigation.

Police say this is due to a number of factors including the increased culture of scrutiny of police following the Hillsborough Inquiry.

Chiefs also blamed a small number of complex cases that 'skewed the average'.

Mr Jamieson highlighted the figures from the force's Professional Standards Department.

Deputy chief constable Louisa Rolfe said the force had taken 'substantial steps' to address the situation. "We're out of step with some forces but not the most similar forces," she said.

Teenage thug locked up for vicious attack on football fan

A TEENAGE thug from Sedgley who was part of a gang of yobs who attacked a football fan and left him for dead after a Wolves match has been locked up for two years.

Daniel Lloyd, 19, punched Watford supporter Nic Cruwys, causing him to trip and hit his head on the ground in Littles Lane in the city.

Mr Cruwys had been supporting his team in their clash at Molineux on March 7 last year. Lloyd, who was one of six convicted for the attack, was identified after police recognised him.

Prosecutor David Lee told Wolverhampton Crown Court how the officers stopped Lloyd and asked for his details during a routine procedure before a previous match.

Mr Lee also told the court how Lloyd had sent text messages to his associates to try to silence them and had hidden his phone. He said: "There were messages which he sent encouraging people not to talk about the attack, because he knew the police would be able to use the evidence against him. He stopped using the phone, and it was found hidden away.

"There are messages on the phone dating back to January of that year in which he arranges to meet up with other fans for potential violent activity. He sent a message to someone saying how he had been fined £90 for a public disorder offence in another area where Wolves were playing."

Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, admitted causing grievous bodily harm. He was also handed an eight-year football banning order.

Defence barrister James Wilson accepted the attack was pre-meditated and there was no excuse. He asked the judge to consider his age and claimed Lloyd has since changed his ways.



Daniel Lloyd – locked up

Insurance firm service award

A HALESOWEN resident has been honoured this week after clocking up 25 years of service working at Swinton Insurance, the UK's largest high street insurance broker.

Colin Russell was one of 30 customer service associates, branch managers and head office staff honoured at a national award ceremony, held at the Rookery Hall Hotel in Cheshire.

Colin began his career at Swinton Insurance in 1991, starting as an insurance clerk at its Cotteridge branch. Now a customer service associate at the Stourbridge branch, Colin works with customers to help them find the right cover for their individual insurance needs.

Colin said: "When I started at Swinton I didn't expect to work for the company for such a length of time and I hope the next 25 years will be just as successful."

Bros back together for reunion show



Matt and Luke Goss – Bros reunion tour comes to Brum

EIGHTIES pop stars Bros are coming back for reunion shows, including a concert at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next summer. Matt and Luke Goss have not played together since 77,000 packed into Wembley Stadium in August 1989.

Propelled by smash hit When Will I Be Famous, Bros ruled the pop world from 1987 to 1992. They were the youngest band to headline Wembley Arena, playing 19 shows at the venue. Debut album Push went seven times Platinum and was number one in 20 countries.

Matt has gone on to become a popular crooner, selling five million albums, having a residency at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and headlining at Wembley Arena in his own right. Luke turned to Hollywood and had roles in Hellboy II, Blade II, and TV series Frankenstein and Red Widow.

Tickets have gone on sale for the gig at the city centre venue on August 25 with prices from £45.80 to £113.30. See www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 3388 222.

Police warning over lottery ticket scam

CONMEN are duping people into handing over jewellery and large sums of cash by promising to sell them a 'winning' lottery ticket worth millions of pounds.

Several reports have been made to West Midlands Police about two men claiming they have a winning ticket and offering to sell it for cash and goods up front.

Victims in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Birmingham and Coventry have contacted police after they were hoodwinked by the persuasive pair.

A statement from police said: "We have noticed an increase in reports of people being approached in the street by two men, who are claiming to be illegal immigrants who have a winning lottery ticket. They state they can't cash their ticket in for values up to £33 million due to their immigration status, but they can offer their ticket for sale.

"The men ask for cash up front and in some instances even offer to drive people to a cash point."

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A scene from hit musical Miss Saigon, from the creators of Les Miserables, coming to Birmingham next summer

Blockbuster musicals in Hippodrome new season

LEGENDARY musical Miss Saigon and current West End hit Funny Girl are among the spectacular shows announced in the new season at Birmingham Hippodrome.

New productions on sale for 2017 include the major new UK tour of Sir Cameron Mackintosh's Miss Saigon; a first time visit from original high-school musical Grease; rags-to-riches musical Funny Girl.

There will also be a new production of The Addams Family, a kooky musical comedy Broadway success from the writers of the hit musical Jersey Boys.

Fiona Allan, artistic director and chief executive of Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "Birmingham Hippodrome has an enviable reputation for the productions it is able to attract, from West End musicals through to the best in international ballet and opera and, of course, the UK's biggest panto."

Miss Saigon will be at the Hurst Street theatre for most of next summer, whilst Funny Girl opens in May, Grease in June and The Addams Family in July.

Tickets have already been selling for previously announced blockbuster Billy Elliot, being staged at the Hippodrome in March and April.

This year's panto will see showman and Torchwood star John Barrowman take on the title role of Dick Whittington in a magical new production from December 19 to January 29. Joining him will be EastEnders bad boy Steve McFadden as King Rat, veteran comedy duo The Krankies, Hippodrome favourite Matt Slack and Jodie Prenger as Fairy Bow Bells.

See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Tips tops for family fun with a touch of tragedy



An evacuee arrives at school in 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, Kneehigh's collaboration with Michael Morpurgo

946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips
Birmingham Rep

BURDENED though it is by a long and convoluted title, this new play from a Michael Morpurgo story is an exhilarating and hugely enjoyable production for all the family.

It is based on a hushed-up wartime tragedy during the preparations for D-Day, that saw 946 US troops killed off the coast of Devon when ambushed by Nazi German E-boats. Yet it is actually a joyously life-affirming show with only brief moments of sadness.

The play centres on Lily Tregenza, a 12-year-old farm girl, missing her father away at war but embracing every new experience as London evacuees come to her village, then black American GIs bearing gifts of candy and hot dogs. When Lily is forced to leave her farm, she enlists her new friends to find her missing cat Tips.

Then the irrepressible young girl is faced with the realities of war.

Katy Owen, recently seen as Puck at London's Globe theatre, is full of restless energy as Lily, racing around the stage as if the theatre can barely contain her.

She also has a knack for inspired silliness and slapstick humour, joining in with the dynamic jitterbugging Yanks.

This production by Cornish company Kneehigh, adapted for the stage by Morpurgo and Kneehigh's Emma Rice, gleefully breaks lots of rules – a couple of female roles are played by men, actors sometimes talk direct to audience members, the on-stage band blast out pop favourites.

It also includes a few anachronisms (would a 1940s schoolgirl know kung fu poses?) but it is all done with such boisterous good humour that the audience is happily carried along.

The massacre at sea is represented with tin baths, toy soldiers and streamers. Odd but strangely effective.

Tips shares with Morpurgo's major stage success War Horse a backdrop of sadness and a clever use of puppets, albeit on a much smaller scale (literally). You will be wiping away more tears of laughter than sadness. It continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Theatre review

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Jobs at risk in transport plan

TWENTY jobs are at risk under Dudley Council plans to privatise transport services to day care centres in a bid to save more than £250,000.

The latest in a swathe of cost-cutting plans by the authority– has been met with concern in the borough.

Council bosses said they will be reviewing the lease on its fleet of 11 minibuses this year, and plan to use private companies to deliver the transport services to four day care centres in the borough.

The changes, which are due to come into force before the end of the year, would affect 13 permanent staff and seven casual workers.

Users who pay for the transport would not see a change in terms of prices, bosses insist. Among day care centres affected are the Unicorn Centre in Stourbridge, Queens Cross Network in Dudley, The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote and The Brett Young Day centre in Halesowen.

Crimewave brothers jailed after car theft and burglary

A PAIR of brothers from Dudley who went on a crime spree together are starting jail sentences.

Habitual thieves Scott and Shane O'Rourke took the keys to a car while it was parked near a dental practice in Dixons Green Road, Dudley, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

For unknown reasons the keys had been left on a wall in the street by the couple who owned the Honda Civic, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

The brothers drove away in the vehicle – which has not been recovered – on September 1 with 28-year-old Shane at the wheel and Scott, aged 30, in the front passenger seat. Police identified the pair from reviewing CCTV coverage.

Four days later the brothers smashed their way into a house in Chapel Street, Pensnett while the occupants were at work.

Damage

The thieves broke a panel in the kitchen door at the rear of the address, causing £500 damage, and searched drawers in rooms throughout the house, said Mr Searle. But a sharp-eyed neighbour alerted the police who arrived as the pair fled with their haul of electrical gear, games consoles and mobile phones.

The burglars reached their Fiat Punto getaway and started the engine but a police officer managed to smash the driver's side window and snatch the key from the ignition.

Drug problems were responsible for the offending of both men, said Miss Nicole Steers, defending.

She asked for a sentence that would help the brothers from Black Acre Road, Buffery, to break the habit.

Scott O'Rourke had 24 previous convictions involving 45 separate offences, 27 of which were for theft. Shane O'Rourke had 26 offences of dishonesty among his previous convictions.

Both pleaded guilty to the Chapel Street burglary and the theft of the Honda Civic from Dixons Green Road.

Shane also admitted driving while disqualified with no licence or insurance. He was jailed for two years four months and banned from driving for four years two months. Scott was locked up for three years.

Chilling tales for visitors

AN evening of thrills and chills will be assured during a visit to the grounds of a spooky Grade II Listed building.

Winterbourne House and Gardens, in Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, will host storytelling on October 28 and 29. Actors and improvisers from Foghorn Unscripted will be located at the property.

Visitor manager Anna Fawcett said: "This is the first Halloween event we have hosted at Winterbourne. Visitors on the night will be placed at the centre of a terrifying experience." Interactive performances will take place on both nights.

Evenings will be made up of a series of haunting scenarios.

Due to the content only those aged 13 years and over will be admitted. A licensed bar will also be available before and after the performance. Admission costs £15. Visit www.winterbourne.org.uk

Chip shop prize is batter than its rivals



John (left) and Zach Ioannou (right) with Sav Martignetti

A BLACK Country fish and chip shop has seen off the competition from across the region to be named the best in the Midlands.

Judges were wowed by the quality of the fish and chips on offer at Oldswinford Fish and Chips, on Hagley Road.

It was crowned as the top chippy in the Midlands category of the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year, organised by Seafish.

It will now go up against other regional winners from across the country in a bid to win the national title, judged in January.

The chippy was also judged in a range areas including menu, customer experience and staff training.

Co-owner Zach Ioannou said: "Our shop has been in our family for over 39 years, but we re-branded to Oldswinford Fish and Chips in 2012 when my brother John and I took over. We've established a loyal customer base. This year's success comes as long-awaited recognition."

The chippy was first opened by their father Andreas in 1977.

Jenny enjoys her big break on top TV show

A QUARRY Bank woman made her TV debut in front of millions of viewers during the X Factor ad breaks.

Assistant care co-ordinator Jenny Hawkins performed her rendition of the song The Final Countdown, which appeared in during the adverts of the show.

The song was performed on the FX Star App made by Talk Talk, which sponsors The X Factor.

Jenny, aged 42, said: "This will be my 15 seconds of fame! My husband Martin has uploaded about 30 videos using the FX Star app and I only did a few so it's rather funny that one of my videos has been selected over his."

The mobile company has launched the app which allows fans to create their own videos for the chance to star on national TV.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Select a filter, choose a track and hit record.

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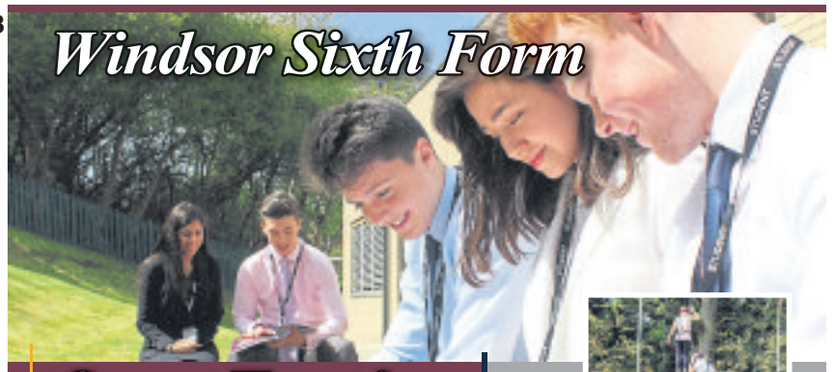
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EDUCATION

Commercial feature

Another set of excellent results

A-level students from The Royal School Wolverhampton have distinguished themselves once again in the most rigorous and facilitating subjects.



Fun and Games on Sixth Form Induction Day at The Royal School

A most welcome 19% of A-level grades attained are at A*/A with particularly excellent results in our STEM subjects.

80% of our students in chemistry attained A*- B while 57% in maths attained A*-B of which 29% are at A*/A. In psychology, 50% attain A*/A and an amazing 100% achieved A*/A in modern foreign languages. As a non-selective school, we are very proud of these results.

Worth mentioning are some of our star students who will be heading off to their first choice universities.

Academics

Head Boy Bartosz Szyszka will be studying medicine at Imperial College thanks to his three A*s in biology, chemistry, and Polish, one A in maths, and an A in AS physics.

Head of academics prefect Kamil Pufal attained three A*s in biology, chemistry, and Polish and an A each in German, maths, and physics. Kamil will be studying medicine at the University of Birmingham.

Elite swimmer and Junior European Champion gold medallist Tom Derbyshire not only concentrated on his sporting performances, he also achieved a very impressive set of A-level results with an A* in biology, an A in psychology, and a B in chemistry. Talented pianist Tai Kan achieved two A*s in further maths and maths, an A in physics, a B in Chinese and a C in Economics. He will be pursuing computer science at the University of Warwick.

Our two top performing girls were Linh Pham with four A-levels – two A*s in further maths and maths, a B in physics, and a C in economics; and Sandy Boparan with two A grades in biology and psychology, and a B grade in chemistry.

Linh plans to study business management and Sandy will be heading to the University of Birmingham to study pharmacy.

In these times of high competition for the best university places, it is pleasing to note the great success The Royal students have in securing their first choice places. Even more impressive, however, is the fact that that their achievements are in the most rigorous academic subjects that the universities demand.

"This is excellent news, particularly at the highest end. We are extremely proud of our students, who have together achieved great results and leave us as truly well-rounded individuals. At The Royal our focus continues to be on the development of the whole person demonstrated by the academic success of our Elite Swimmers. The Royal helps young people exceed their aspirations, preparing them to take on leadership roles and succeed in a competitive global world," said Principal Mr Mark Heywood.

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First look at city square re-design for Snow Hill

NEW designs have been released to show how one of Birmingham's busiest open spaces could look as part of £10 million improvements for the city centre's Snow Hill area.

Snow Hill Square in Colmore business district will be re-designed in a scheme to provide a more attractive gateway to the city centre from Snow Hill rail station.

The new square will put pedestrians first and is at the heart of a number of changes to Snow Hill.

A two-way traffic flow will be introduced on Livery Street between Cornwall Street and Livery Street car park entrance and the right turn from Livery Street to Colmore Row will be removed. The scheme involves re-routing bus routes 7, 46 and 101 and re-configuring the junction at Colmore Circus Queensway and Snow Hill Queensway.

Colmore Business Improvement District (BID) is working alongside Birmingham City Council, Transport for West Midlands and architect and design practice Broadway Malyan on the proposals. Property owners and tenants are being consulted. Information about how the scheme will be funded will be made available during a month-long public review.

Rob Valentine, Colmore BID vice chairman, said: "Snow Hill Square makes a suitable extension of the earlier work of Colmore BID in Church Street Square and Colmore Square. Though a technically and legally demanding project, involving a live railway tunnel and multiple ownership interests, this space is a true gateway into the Colmore business district and needs to be a high-quality environment."



An artist's impression of how Snow Hill in Birmingham will look after the multi-million pound revamp

Tougher sentences for social media knife yobs

YOUNG knife criminals who film offences to post them on social media could face tougher punishment under new sentencing proposals.

Offenders in a group or gang when someone is carrying a blade could also be handed stronger penalties.

The scenarios are among a number of "aggravating factors" for judges and magistrates to take into account when sentencing defendants convicted of possessing a bladed article or offensive weapon in public, or of using one to make threats.

New draft guidelines are being published by the Sentencing Council to take into account a number of changes in the law and court judgements.

The proposals do not cover offences where a knife or other weapon is actually used to harm a victim, nor the use or possession of firearms.

The guidelines list a number of possible aggravating factors which can be taken into account by judges and magistrates when weighing up sentences. For youth offenders, these include "deliberate humiliation of victim, including but not limited to filming of the offence.'

Variety is spice of life society's star Kirsty

A DEDICATED member of a performing arts society based in Halesowen has received an award for the second time.

For the past 15 years Kirsty Aldridge from Netherton has been a valued part of Startime Variety, the Halesowen society which puts on various shows for the community.

After starting off as a dancer with the group when she was just a teenager, Kirsty, now 28, has gone on to take principal roles including in the pantomimes Aladdin and Jack and the Beanstalk.



Kirsty Aldridge – awards

She is now vice-chair of the society, and this summer Kirsty produced her first show, Startime in their Eyes inspired by the classic Stars in their Eyes TV show.

"I thought it was going to be a lot more stressful, but everyone is so supportive and I'm proud of what we created," said Kirsty.

Following the success of the summer show, Startime held its annual general meeting in September, where Kirsty received the Sheila Darby Award for the second time.

The award remembers Sheila Darby was a member of the society from 1972, but passed away aged in her 40s from cancer.

Kirsty also received the Mike Clifford award, named after a long-serving producer at the society who was on hand when she needed any advice.

"It is like a big family at Startime. Everyone is so friendly," said Kirsty.

"I love performing, and have been dancing since the age of four."

In addition she is a talented singer, and performs in pubs and clubs in the area.

In her day job she is a sales assistant in Sports Direct, and she also organises children's parties.

She lives on Gloucester Road in Netherton and has a four-year-old daughter who is also showing interest in wanting to perform. If she does it will be continuing the family's close connection with Startime, as Kirsty's mum is a member too.

Now the society is gearing up to put on their next pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, which will be staged at The Cornbow Hall in Halesowen from January 18 to 21.

Kirsty is involved in planning a big summer show next year to mark Startime's 50th anniversary.

Society's lecture topic is Welsh Border Country

THE next lecture arranged by the Black Country Society will take place on Wednesday, October 26 at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Veteran lecturer Bernard Pumfrey will give a detailed illustrated talk on 'The Welsh Border Country'.

The talk, which starts at 7.30pm, will concentrate on the remote region.

Non-members are welcome. Admission is £2 to include tea and coffee.

A previous article mentioned a talk on Frank Foley had been arranged by the Black Country Society at the museum on November 25. We would like to clarify that this event actually took place on November 25 last year.







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Views are sought on encampments

VIEWS are being sought on how Sandwell Council and West Midlands Police deal with unauthorised and illegal encampments.

New policy documents include the option of using bailiffs to remove encampments and injunctions to protect land at risk of trespass.

Councillor Paul Moore, said: "Dealing with illegal encampments cost the council more than £250,000 last year. This financial year has already seen more than 40 encampments on our parks and land.

"We want to make it clear to people what powers the police and council have when dealing with travellers and how we can better respond to community concerns in the future."

Residents can comment on the documents before November 11. Documents are available on www.sandwell.gov.uk/illegalencampments, at the Council House in Oldbury and at all main libraries.



Simon Cowell look-alike Andy Monk, of Dudley, ready for BGT auditions at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

Invitation to Simon and his Britain's Got Talent judges

BRITAIN'S Got Talent fans are being urged to help bring Simon Cowell and his fellow judges to Brierley Hill Civic Hall when auditions are staged for the TV show.

Bosses at the civic hall want people to use the Twitter hashtag #getsimontobrierleyhill when talking about the auditions online.

James Challis, the venue's general manager, said: "So far we've had no confirmation that any of the main stars are coming but we're trying to get them here. We would love that. The more that people create interest then the more chances there is. Use #getsimontobrierleyhill on Twitter or tweet him direct asking for him to attend."

In the event Mr Cowell doesn't show up Civic bosses have also hired a lookalike to promote the event. There has been a massive reaction to the news the town will be hosting auditions, with an initial post about the event being viewed more than 130,000 times on social media.

Tickets for the auditions, on October 25, sold out within 24 hours, and another talent show has been organised to give everyone the chance to perform.

Mr Challis said: "I think we were expecting a lot of interest but didn't expect it to get quite as big as it did. So we've decided to run Brierley Hill's Got Talent the following day. Although they won't have the chance to progress onto Britain's Got Talent we are promoting it with a £500 prize." Anyone wanting to enter should email boxoffice@bhillcivic.co.uk

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£1.5m of cannabis seized from the streets

AT least £1.5 million worth of cannabis was seized from the streets of the West Midlands in September. The figure was revealed by the West Midlands Police Cannabis Disposal Team – the taskforce set up to tackle cultivation of the drug.

By Jamie Brassington

Raids carried out in the Black Country last month accounted for almost two thirds of the overall figure. The largest raid saw 861 plants seized at two properties in Dudley, with a street value of around £430,000.

On average a cannabis factory is raided by police in the Black Country every three days. Figures from West Midlands Police showed £9m worth of drugs was seized in the region last year.

The raid in Dudley saw two men arrested at two adjoining properties on Stourbridge Road, Russells Hall, on September 20, where the 861 plants were found spread around seven rooms.

A total of 48,600 watts of electricity had been illegally used, police officers said. A 'strong smell' from the properties had led police there.

The raid was conducted by police officers from Dudley, West Midlands Police Cannabis Team and helicopter crews from the National Police Air Service based in Birmingham.

On September 2, a police warrant led to a raid of 451 cannabis plants from a house in Ebenezer Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich. The plants, with a street value of £220,000, were spread across five rooms. Two men were arrested following the raid. Police found electricity had been used, with fans and tubing together with hydroponic lights used to cultivate the drug. Around three weeks later, on September 21, police seized 300 plants from a property in Terry Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, after they were discovered by an Npower engineer. The estimated value was £90,000.

While in Walsall, 209 plants with an estimated value of £62,700 was seized by police on September 9. The plants were discovered by a landlord.

In Halesowen, 124 plants with an estimated value of £37,000 were seized from Bloomfield Street West. The raid took place on September 16, following a police warrant.

Another warrant led to the discovery of 81 plants at an address in Jameson Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, on September 23, with an estimated value of £24,300.

And in Netherton, 80 plants with an estimated value of £24,000 were discovered by the landlord of a property in Northfield Road.

Bosses of the cannabis team have highlighted how cannabis factories are getting smaller in size to reduce the risks of being found.

While the factories are reducing in size, police say they have increased in numbers across the Black Country.

Parking charges to be imposed at park

PARKING charges will be brought in at Sandwell Valley Country Park from November 1.

The move to make visitors pay to park has been opposed by hundreds of people, with Sandwell Council having been inundated with objections from aggrieved members of the public. However, bosses say they are being forced to press ahead with the move.

Parking has always been free at the country park but visitors will now have to pay from 40p for an hour to £2 for more than four hours. Those who don't pay will face £50 fines. Around 200,000 cars park at the site each year.

The cash-strapped authority says it must raise more cash to help meet the costs of the upkeep of the country park.

fast theticket

Court in session

A Tale worth telling – Page 23



Beliebe – Page 23

NATIVE MONSTER
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Monday, 7.30pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham
Former lead singer of The Beta Band comes to the Arcadian with his new band to perform songs from his acclaimed solo album Meet The Humans. Visit **www.glee.co.uk/music/birmingham/**

Tchaikovsky Symph. Orchestra



Friday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The Moscow-based orchestra perform Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto, featuring acclaimed young Russian pianist Pavel Kolesnikov (pictured), who will also be interviewed at 6.15pm. Visit **thsh.co.uk**

Amber Arcades



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Following a summer of festivals Dutch singer-songwriter Annelotte De Graaf (AKA Amber Arcades) brings her beguiling electronic pop, as heard on debut Fading Lines, to the Brum pub. Visit **hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk**

MØ



Saturday, 7pm
Rainbow Warehouse, Digbeth
The feisty Danish synth pop star found success singing (and co-writing) Major Lazer and DJ Snake's Lean On. Nimmo are supporting.
Visit **birminghampromoters.com/listings**

ROCK & METAL

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ELO Experience
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The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Money For Nothing
Tonight, £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Bon Giovi – The UKs No1 tribute to Bon Jovi
Tonight, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nickelback
Tonight,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Australian Pink Floyd Show 2016
Tonight,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Into The Shadows
Tomorrow,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Wilko Johnson
Tomorrow,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Girl From Mars: The Britpop Show
Tomorrow, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Ferocious Dog
Tomorrow
The Sun Inn, Llangollen,
LL20 8HN.
Call 01978 860079

The Feeling
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Grateful Dudes – Grateful Dead Tribute
Sun, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Tubes – Pulp Tour 2016
Tue, £22.50 - £25
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Steel Panther
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
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Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra
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The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT.
Call 0121 414 4117

Choir of the Year 2016 Category Finals
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Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
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Grimethorpe Colliery Band
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POP

All Saints
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Tony Hadley
Tomorrow, £22.50 - £65
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

MØ
Tomorrow, 7pm
The Rainbow Warehouse,
Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Jamie Lawson
Sun,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Justin Bieber – The Where Are You Now Tour
Mon - Tue,
Barclaycard Arena,
Brindleyplace,
Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Bars and Melody
Mon,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
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Steve Mason
Mon, 7.30pm
Glee Club Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Amber Arcades
Tue, 7.30pm
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Call 0121 444 2081

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Nell Bryden
Tonight, £19
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Remi Harris
Tomorrow, £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Loudon Wainwright III + special guest Chaim Tannenbaum
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Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Blowin' In The Wind
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Jason Byrne is Propped Up
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Glyndr University, Wrexham,
LL11 2AW.
Call 01978 290666
and
Sun, £17.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Al Murray – Let's Go Backwards Together
Tomorrow,
William Aston Hall,
Glyndr University, Wrexham,
LL11 2AW.
Call 01978 290666

Jasper Carrot's Stand Up And Rock
Sun,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Ross Noble – Brain Dump
Mon - Tue,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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Hal Cruttenden: Straight Outta Cruttenden
Wed, £18
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Angelos & Barry: The New Power Generator
Thu,
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
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Lee Hurst: Comedy Show No. 9
Tonight, £16.50
Huntingdon Hall,
CrownGate Shopping Centre,
Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

THEATRE

The Rocky Horror Show
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - tomorrow, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 – The Musical
Tonight - tomorrow
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Bardolph's Box
Tonight - tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
Tonight - tomorrow, £10.75 - £12.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Jimmy Osmond: Moon River and Me
Tomorrow, £31.92 - £85.12
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Cosi Fan Tutte – ROH Live screening
Mon, £12 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Woman in Black
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Living with Luke
Tue,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382
and
Wed,
Solihull Arts Complex, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Whitney – Queen of the Night
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Psychic Sally: Call Me Psychic
Thu, £27
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

La Voce
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Professor Brian Cox Live
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Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

You better Beliebe – Justin is back



Justin Bieber is coming to Brum after his latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries

IT'S the biggest pop music event of the year for thousands of Justin Bieber fans when the young Canadian mega-star brings his Purpose World Tour to Birmingham for three concerts.

The Beliebers will be out in force with every night sold out, starting with his gigs at the Barclaycard Arena in the city centre on Monday and Tuesday, followed next Monday, October 24, by his additional concert at the Genting Arena at the NEC.

And it will mark the pop phenomenon's second, third and fourth gigs in the region after being one of the headliners at the summer's V Festival.

His latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries and is shattering records worldwide, including having 17 songs in the Billboard Hot 100 in one week. He also established a new Spotify record for global streaming with more than 200 million fans streaming Purpose, his sixth album.

The 22-year-old singer and songwriter from Ontario also became the first artist, since Elvis Presley, to replace his own song as number one on the UK singles chart when Love Yourself replaced Sorry at the top of the chart.



Dickens of a great story

WELSH actor Jacob Ifan (pictured left), best known for his role as Jake Vickers in the BBC police drama series Cuffs, is to make his professional theatrical debut in a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday (October 19-22).

Joining Jacob is Joseph Timms, whose credits include Twelfth Night and Richard III (Donmar on Broadway). Shanaya Rafaat, who has appeared in Great Expectations at West Yorkshire Playhouse and King Lear at Shakespeare's Globe will also be in the cast along with National Theatre actor Sue Wallace and Royal Shakespeare Company actor Patrick Rome.

Dickens considered his novel, A Tale of Two Cities, the best story he had written, interweaving one family's personal drama with the terror of the French Revolution. It is an epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption.

This play version was first staged in Northampton in 2014, to great acclaim, and was director James Dacre's inaugural production at the theatre. It was adapted by Mike Poulton, who also adapted Wolf Hall for the RSC, and has an original score by Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman.

Dacre said: "Our decision along with Jenny King, producer of The Touring Consortium, to revisit the production during this year of elections, referendums and revolutions across the world is motivated by a shared belief that great historical dramas can play an important role in contemporary political conversations."

Civic ready to Blast Off at venue again

LEGENDARY Wolverhampton club night Blast Off! will return for two nights before the end of the year.

On Saturday the indie night will celebrate 20 years since it was first staged and a Christmas party is planned for December 17, both at the Civic Hall.

This weekend's anniversary event will also give folks an early view of the new-look Civic as the famous venue nears completion of its £14 million revamp.

Originally planned to re-open with The Specials on November 11, the Civic will now be open throughout October, hosting the Magic of Motown on October 23, before work resumes in January.

Bostin' festival goes indoors at Robin 2

BOSTIN' Days was a Levellers tribute album featuring more than 30 artists to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance and in October 2015 the Bostin' Days Live Festival took place in Nuneaton where 20 of the acts played on two stages.

In 2016 Bostin' Days 2 comes to Bilston's Robin 2 venue over Friday and Saturday (October 14 and 15) to bring the festival atmosphere without the need for waterproofs and wellies. Tomorrow night has Ferocious Dog, Black Tar Rivers Boozy Big Band and Star Botherer. On Saturday there is music on two stages from noon until The Leylines at 10pm. All for £30.

Naturalist ready to Packham in Grand

NATURALIST Chris Packham is coming to Wolverhampton to give a talk on his career and conservation at the Grand Theatre.

Tickets for Tadpoles Not Included on Monday at 7.30pm are on sale at £19.25 and £21.25. The Springwatch presenter will be sharing his experiences of close encounters with large hungry carnivores and giving his views about conservation. The talk is illustrated with his own photographs and video.

The 55-year-old first found fame in the 1980s on The Really Wild Show. His autobiography Fingers in the Sparkle Jar: A Memoir was published in May.





CHOICE



Julie Walters (left)

Artsnight – Julie Walters Meets Willy Russell (BBC2, 10pm)

Actress Julie Walters interviews her friend and collaborator Willy Russell, to explore his thoughts on how a working-class lad from Liverpool's suburbs - who dropped out of school at the age of 15 - became one of the most celebrated playwrights of modern British theatre. The 1983 film adaptation of Russell's play Educating Rita helped Walters find stardom as she took the title role opposite Michael Caine, and here, she encourages Russell to open up about some of his other, lesser-known artistic ventures. Plus, the pair visit some of the distinctive Liverpool locales that have formed part of their home-city's cultural character, including the Philharmonic Pub.

BBC1

6.00 Film: Till the End of Time. (1946) **7.45** Coast. (R) **8.45 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) **10.25** Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Michael Cockerell examines why backbench MPs are becoming increasingly rebellious, and meets the people whose job it is to ensure that all the Commons' clocks tell the same time. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. The historian examines how murder infiltrated popular culture during the Victorian era, and how the depiction of grisly crimes in literature captured the public's imagination.

8.30 Dad's Army. Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)

9.00 The Secret Life of Sue Townsend (Aged 68 3/4). Profile of the creator of Adrian Mole, with contributions from comedians and writers she inspired, as well as entries from her own diary, documenting her struggles with ill health.

10.00 Artsnight – Julie Walters Meets Willy Russell. Julie Walters interviews her friend and collaborator Willy Russell about his career as a playwright, and the pair explore some of Liverpool's lesser-known cultural landmarks.

10.30 Film: The Talented Mr Ripley. (1999) A man is paid to persuade a businessman's spoiled son to return home to his family, but ends up assuming his identity. Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon and Jude Law.

12.45 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **1.45 Film:** X the Unknown. (1956) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Till the End of Time. (1946) **7.45** Coast. (R) **8.45 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) **10.25** Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

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ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: DC Super Hero Girls: Super Hero High. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.20** The Chase. (R) **2.20** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.20** Pick Me! (R) **4.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Jimmy Carr, David Haye and Charlotte Crosby answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. New series. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The pressure is still on for the remaining contestants as the talent contest's live stage continues. As was the case last week, each of the would-be stars must once again perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, who has the girls, Nicole Scherzinger, looking after the boys, Louis Walsh, in charge of the groups, and Sharon Osbourne – who has the overs – as well as millions of viewers at home. Once this latest round of performances are out of the way, Dermot O'Leary entrusts the stars' fate to the shows fans, as the public vote opens.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by QI funnyman Alan Davies, actor and comedian Russell Brand, impressionist Morgana Robinson and the newly reunited Bros. Singer Rebecca Ferguson performs live.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: GT Academy. **6.40** Yorkshire Marathon. **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of British Champions Day at Ascot. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.45** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Crossrail Discovery: London's Lost Graveyard. Documentary catching up with London's Crossrail engineers less than two years after the project's excavations uncovered the 14th-century Charterhouse plague pit. In an extraordinary turn of events, further work on the Liverpool Street station has revealed another burial ground, this time accommodating the capital's radicals, rebels and outsiders. The Bedlam burial ground, which is thought to be the final resting place of nearly 20,000 people, was believed to be lost for around 300 years. Now, with the excavation process under way, archaeologists and historians have been using bone analysis techniques in conjunction with parish records to reveal the names and life stories of those whose remains were found on-site. Their research reveals that people came from as far afield as Africa to work in the English capital, and sheds light on how pollution first became one of the city's most prolific killers. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. New series. The historian explores the UK's network of ancient trackways and roads, which have been walked by pilgrims, hunters and invaders over the course of the past 5,000 years.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Victoria Coren Mitchell going up against guest captain Lee Mack and Bob Mortimer.

10.00 Film: Limitless. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Bradley Cooper.

12.05 Film: Starred Up. (2013) **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.05 NCIS. Gibbs sends DiNozzo and Ziva on a decoy mission to retrieve top-secret information from a secure military base, in a bid to expose a spy in NCIS. (R)

7.00 NCIS. Having identified the mole in their ranks, the agents arrest the traitor's contact Ted Bankston, a former NSA agent working for a kidnapper code-named the Weatherman – who is making millions on the stock markets out of stolen military data. Drama, guest-starring David Eigenberg, with Mark Harmon, David McCallum and Cote de Pablo. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. The murder of a petty officer on a US Navy construction site leads Pride to a drugs cartel, but when he launches a sting, he discovers Sonja among the dealers.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Newcastle United v Brentford at St James' Park, Derby County v Leeds United at the iPro Stadium and Aston Villa v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Villa Park.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Scunthorpe United v Milton Keynes Dons and Sheffield United v Port Vale.

10.30 Britain's Greatest Bridges. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. (R)

11.25 Ram Raid Britain: Caught on Camera. The documentary showing how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice looks at the rise of ram raids. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00 Film:** The Keeper of Lost Causes (2013) **10.30** Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga **11.30** Southern Rock at the BBC **12.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **1.30** Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga **2.30** Southern Rock at the BBC **3.30** Close

ITV2

12.50 You've Been Framed! **1.50 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Paranoia (2013) **4.00 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **5.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.55 Film:** The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00 Film:** The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.15** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **1.00** Rosemary & Thyme **2.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **1.05** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.00 Film: Apache (1954) **3.45 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** Fierce **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.40 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50 Film:** Fire Down Below (1997) **1.50** Car Crash Global **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

2.45 Rude(ish) Tube Short **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Raj Rules **9.00 Film:** Paul (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for SU2C **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.35** Rude Tube **2.35** Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for SU2C **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.25** Revenge **5.10** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **1.00** Vice Versa (1988) **2.55** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.35** Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** Red (2010) **11.15** The Divide (2011) **1.30** This Means War (2012) **3.30** Close

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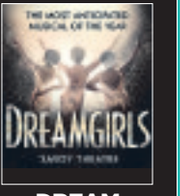


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CHOICE



Max Irons

Tutankhamun (ITV, 9pm)

New series. Drama about the discovery of the Egyptian Pharaoh's tomb in 1905. Archaeologist Howard Carter is recruited by aristocrat and amateur Egyptologist Lord Carnarvon to explore the Valley of the Kings, and discovers evidence of the boy-king's final resting place. However, his expedition is threatened by global events and his own impulsive nature. Starring Max Irons, Sam Neill, Jonathan Aris, Catherine Steadman, Vincent Grass, Waleed Elgadi, Chloe Sweetlove, Anthony Higgins, Susan Danford, George Jackos, Riaz Solker, Leon Clingman, Rupert Vansittart, Cedric Leherle, Ashleigh Tobias, Joe Vaz, Gary Green and Shaun Acker.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Points of View. **2.45** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **3.45** Regional Programme. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani explore the Isle of Wight, where Matt abseils down the walls of Carisbrooke Castle to clear the ivy and works with two donkeys to draw water from a well, while Anita helps local volunteers to round up feral goats and visits a vineyard. Naomi Wilkinson drops in at Ventor Botanic Gardens, Adam Henson meets a commercial deer breeder, and Tom Heap reports on plans to crack down on keeping chickens in cages. Including weather for the week ahead.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The two lowest scoring couples from last night's show compete in a dance-off to decide who will be eliminated. Plus, a guest performance by Madness and a tribute to James Brown.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Baddesley Clinton, a moated manor house near Birmingham. Items brought in to be valued include a controversial carving of St George.

9.00 Poldark. Dwight prepares to elope with Caroline, but his plans are jeopardised when he is needed to treat Rosina's leg, and also discovers that Ross is walking into a trap.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Extended edition. Stephen Mangan hosts the satirical current affairs quiz, with Ruth Davidson and Henning Wehn joining team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.

11.10 Film: Midnight's Children. (2012) Two men switched at birth find their lives intertwined as they grow up in newly independent India. Drama based on Salman Rushdie's novel, starring Satya Bhabha.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

7.45 Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.40** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.30** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.00** Flog It!

6.00 Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants – Natural World. Conservationist Dr Julian Fennessy is on a mission to learn more about the giraffes of Africa, but the most important fact is that they are disappearing. In an urgent attempt to save them, he and a determined Ugandan team round up 20 of the world's rarest giraffes to take across and beyond the mighty Nile River. The stakes are high, but if they succeed the reward will be a brighter future for an animal Dr Fennessy believes has been overlooked. (R)

7.00 Inside Obama's White House. Four-part series giving an account of Barack Obama's successes and failures, as told by his inner circle and chief adversaries, including the story of how he tried to reshape America. The election of the first African American President marked an era of hope, but what happened instead was economic collapse, minimal cooperation from the Republican opposition, and the rise of a populist anti-big government Tea Party. The first edition focuses on how Obama crashed a private meeting of fellow heads of state to persuade the Chinese to tackle climate change at the Copenhagen summit, as well as his struggle to shut down Guantanamo. (R)

8.00 The Greatest Tomb On Earth: Secrets of Ancient China. Dan Snow, Alice Roberts and Albert Lin explore the final resting place of China's first emperor, and uncover evidence that casts a new light on the founding of the nation.

9.00 Wild West: America's Great Frontier. Wildlife in America's mountain regions, including the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada, exploring the methods used by black bears, pikas and bison to survive in harsh conditions.

10.00 Mock the Week. (R)

10.35 Film: Borrowed Time. (2012)

12.00 Film: The Magdalene Sisters. (2002) **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** CITV: Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.35** Victoria. (R) **3.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Susie Dent, Anthony Crolla, Ellie Taylor and Harry Redknapp pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The X Factor. The results of Saturday's live show are announced, and the acts discover who is through to the next episode and who will have to compete in a sing-off to avoid elimination.

9.00 Tutankhamun. New series. Drama about the discovery of the Pharaoh's tomb in 1905 by archaeologist Howard Carter, whose dig is jeopardised by global events. Starring Max Irons and Sam Neill.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.20 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica tackles a case in Japan, where a motorcyclist romancing the daughter of a traditional family finds his life is on the line. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.40** Motorcycle Racing: Mondello Masters. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30 Film:** The Rescuers. (1977) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Eva Gabor. **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30 Film:** The Golden Compass. (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. A collection of Iranian diamond and sapphire jewellery is brought in to the shop by a customer hoping to fund renovations to a villa in Cyprus. Claudia examines a handbag that once belonged to Sharon Osbourne, James swaps his usual fast cars for something a bit smaller, and and the staff compete to win employee of the month.

8.00 Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show pitting four gifted youngsters featured on Child Genius against a team of Channel 4's finest celebrity minds, made up of Alan Carr, Rachel Riley, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Aisling Bea. The teams battle it out through a series of challenges, testing their spelling, maths, general knowledge and memory, as well as individual specialist subjects.

9.00 The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special. Stephen Merchant hosts a one-off revival of the game show in aid of Stand Up To Cancer. A celebrity team led by Rio Ferdinand and made up of Michelle Keegan, Jonnie Peacock, Sara Cox, and Josh Widdicombe face a series of mental, physical, skill and mystery challenges in the Aztec, Medieval, Future and Industrial to win crystals and earn time for their final test in the Crystal Dome.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. (R)

12.10 Film: Stoker. (2013) **1.50** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **2.50** The Tiny Tots Talent Agency. (R) **3.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.45** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.55** Pets. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** The Great Birmingham Run 2016. **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50 Film:** Big Momma's House. (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **4.35 Film:** Mr Deeds. (2002) Romantic comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler and Winona Ryder.

6.20 Now That's Funny! Featuring amateur athletes, a tribute to CSI with a cast of children and a talking baby.

7.10 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. The final round of acts taking up the duo's challenge include a performer who demonstrates why you should not steal from a magician, a teenage stage magic champion, a maternal illusionist and a former contestant on America's Got Talent. Penn and Teller close the show with a vanishing one-minute egg trick. Last in the series.

8.05 Ice Road Truckers. Todd runs into trouble when he and rival Darrell Ward hit a newly opened trail. Plus, Polar boss Mark pairs his new recruit with company wildcard Art Burke.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Divergent. (2014) Premiere. A teenager grows up in a strictly ordered future society where people's lives are decided according to personality types. She discovers she does not fit into any of the existing categories, and must fight against a conspiracy to wipe out all those like her. Sci-fi adventure based on the book series by Veronica Roth, starring Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet. Includes 5 News Update.

11.45 Film: Dead Man Down. (2013) Premiere. A gangster plotting revenge on his own boss is blackmailed by a woman into murdering the man who disfigured her. Crime thriller, with Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace.

1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni **8.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **9.00** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **10.00** Storyville: Moazzam Begg – Living the War on Terror **11.25** Horizon: Is Seeing Believing? **12.25** Light and Dark **1.25** Mechanical Marvels: Clockwork Dreams **2.25** Dissected: The Incredible Human Foot **3.25** Close

ITV2

2.35 I'm a Celeb: Epic Trials **3.35 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.20** Dating in the Dark **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 Lewis **2.35 Film:** Columbo: Double Shock (1973) **4.05 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head (1966) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Rising Damp Forever **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Lewis **2.00** The Kindness of Strangers **3.15** May the Best House Win **4.55** You're Only Young Twice **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

3.05 Film: Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Cheyenne Autumn (1964) **6.15 Film:** Apache (1954) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20 Film:** Apache (1954) **8.00 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **9.45 Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **10.45** FYI Daily **10.50 Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **11.50 Film:** Ronaldo (2015) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55 Film:** Ronaldo (2015) **1.40** The Big Fish Off **2.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00 Film:** Stuart Little (1999) **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **7.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday

Film4

1.00 Bandslam (2009) **3.10** The House of Magic (2013) **4.50** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **6.35** Vertical Limit (2000) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Red Lights (2012) **1.35** The Boss, Anatomy of a Crime (2015) **3.40** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Red Dragon, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The FBI agent who first captured Hannibal Lecter is called out of retirement to catch a demented murderer dubbed the Tooth Fairy, who slaughters a family whenever there is a full moon – forcing the detective to draw on the imprisoned cannibal's expertise in criminal psychology. Thriller prequel adapted from the first of Thomas Harris's Lecter novels, starring Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2002)

TUESDAY
Too Late to Say Goodbye, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair and confides in a mystery man she meets on the internet. When her spouse's lover dies under suspicious circumstances, she fears he may have murdered her – or that her online friend is not as trustworthy as he appears. Drama, starring Stefanie von Pfetten, Rob Lowe, Lauren Holly and Yannick Bisson. (2009)



American Pie: The Wedding, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
A Wife's Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A forensic investigator begins to suspect her new husband is the serial killer the police department has been hunting, putting her and her ex-boyfriend – a detective on the case – in danger. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth. (2016)

THURSDAY
The Killing Game, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A sculptor whose daughter was murdered receives phone calls from the killer, and tries to identify him before he strikes again. Mystery, with Laura Prepon and Ty Olsson. (2011)

FRIDAY
American Pie: The Wedding, ITV, 10.40pm
The friends from East Great Falls High reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming wedding. Though reluctant to invite Stifler to their big day, the happy couple relent – but regret their decision when he plans a bachelor party on the same evening Jim is due to meet the in-laws. The third instalment in the comedy series, with Jason Biggs. (2003)

Taking control of his incredible new powers

As many know from offerings like Carrie, and Village of the Damned, adolescents with psychic powers go together as well as nitro and glycerine. Now there's another young man with a 'gift' set to add a chill to your pre-Hallowe'en viewing.

This new drama comes from the pen of Paula Milne, the brains behind acclaimed offerings The Virgin Queen, The Politician's Husband, and Endgame. Her latest concerns a 17-year-old boy caught in the limbo between childhood and adulthood.

However, he's also trapped between the homes of his divorced parents Hannah (Katherine Kelly) and Edward (James Murray), each now remarried with new families.

Like most lads, he finds it difficult to process his feelings, so he tends to "act out". However, the protagonist known only as Him also has a supernatural power he inherited from his granddad.

Newcomer Fionn Whitehead plays the eponymous protagonist. He saw the audition posted on the National Youth Theatre website and applied for it. Although Ffion didn't hear anything, he was encouraged to apply for it again by a Youth Theatre director.

"So I re-applied and included a very clear photo in the email. The casting director Daniel Edwards called me within 10 minutes," he explains. "I put a lot of it down to him, he was incredible."

Fionnwas working in a cafe at the time and acting in his free time for the love of it.

"Then when I got this role it blew it all out of the water. It was not what I was expecting at all. It was amazing."

Since leaving Coronation Street, co-star Katherine Kelly has been able to choose some of the best projects in British drama, from Mr Selfridge to new Dr Who spin-off, Class.So what was it that attracted her to Him?

"It was one of the most unique television scripts I'd read," she explains. "I thought, 'This is something really different, especially for mainstream television.' A current television show that could be something really special and that always excites me. Something that is domestic but not obvious."

She adds: "It is a modern family drama and I'm sure a lot of people will relate to that. And then in the telling of it this supernatural element comes out of something a lot of teenagers will relate to. It's not something put on top. It's cleverly done."

Carrying a series is a lot for a veteran actor, let alone a newcomer, and Katherine was impressed by Ffion's natural ability to juggle all the filming and acting elements thrown at him.

"The director was very aware that Fionn was carrying the show and that's a lot of pressure on somebody so young. And the only way you can do that is to have knowledge of what's going on around him.

"You wouldn't think it was his first job," she adds. "He took it all in his stride. He's a pro already."

The first episode focuses on Him having to deal with adolescence, failing grades, the repercussions of his parents' divorce, and his feelings towards his stepsister. Then there's the additional pressure of learning to control his telekinetic powers.



Fionn Whitehead stars in Him, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Paxman on Trump vs Clinton: Divided America
BBC1, 9pm
Considering he has referred to Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton a 'dull candidate' and Republican Donald Trump a 'clown', this one-off documentary by Jeremy Paxman should make interesting viewing. Clinton once held a double-digit lead over Trump, but this has been eroded by the billionaire, partly due to health concerns when she fainted in public after suffering from pneumonia. But with the Republican nominee prone to making gaffes and alienating key demographic groups, he has failed to close the gap on her fully. Here Paxman examines the US presidential race and how it is laying bare America's class divide. He also looks at the strengths and weaknesses of each individual and attempts to predict how the election of either candidate to the White House on November 8 will change not only America, but the world.

TUESDAY
Who's Spending Britain's Billions?
BBC2, 8pm
Thanks to our regular pay slips, we all know how much we are getting deducted each week or month. But as cash-strapped Britain continues to spend less on the public sector, do we really know where our taxes are being spent? Spending on schools, hospitals and foreign aid are well debated, but in this one-off documentary Jacques Peretti looks beyond these well-known budgets to a range of less-known projects, from virtual receptionists at Brent Civic Centre to night-vision goggles being used to spy on dog walkers in Staffordshire. He finds that local councils are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find and also reveals that hundreds of millions of taxpayers' pounds are spent on contracts are covered by confidential deals.

WEDNESDAY
Little British Isles with Alison Steadman
Channel 4, 8pm
TV's passion for celebrity travelogues shows little sign of abating, and in the latest beloved individual off on a tour is the woman who breathed life into classic dramas such as Abigail's Party, Life is Sweet and more recently Gavin and Stacey. A couple of years after fronting a compelling documentary about Shetland for ITV, she now she takes us on a tour of some of the small islands that surround Britain. And there's no shortage to choose from as 267 are inhabited. The actress has always been fascinated with idyllic island life since holidaying on the Isle of Man as a youngster. In the first episode, she travels to some of Scotland's windswept Inner Hebrides, and over the course of a week she explores the sparsely populated Gigha, Jura, Colonsay and Oronsay.



Stand Up to Cancer, Friday, Channel 4, 7pm

THURSDAY
Anne Robinson's Britain
BBC1, 8pm
Anne explores body image among the younger generation, investigating whether they are under more pressure to look good than ever before. She meets make-up addicts who spend more time getting ready for a night out than on the night itself, a couple of gym obsessives in pursuit of social media followers and a young man going under the knife in the hope that one day he will be 'perfect.' She also meets some people who could not care less about how they look – including naturists happy to let it all hang out.

FRIDAY
Stand Up to Cancer
Channel 4, 7pm
It's that time of year again when the main TV companies pull out all the stops for their chosen charities, and for the latest, Channel 4 have a feast of entertainment lined up. The aim, as you'll have gathered, is to persuade us to part with our cash, which will go towards finding a cure for cancer. Davina McCall, Alan Carr and Adam Hills guide us through the proceedings, and some famous faces will be giving their verdict on small screen gems in Celebrity Gogglebox. Hills returns for a special edition of The Last Leg, and a galaxy of stars, including Jamie Dornan, Michael Bublé, Britney Spears, Noel Gallagher, Olivia Colman, David Tennant, Jon Hamm and Eva Longoria have done their bit to ensure we keep that cash flooding in.

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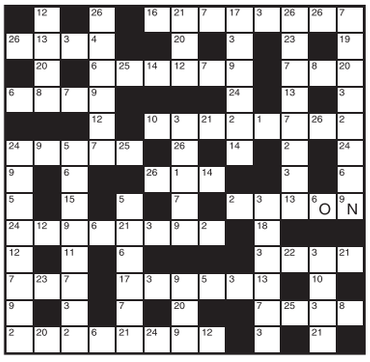
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BRAIN GYM No.399

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



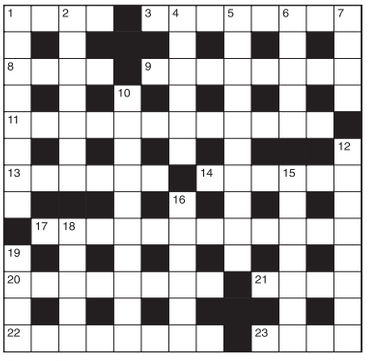
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 O	19
7	20
8	21
9 N	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 Y	2 S	3 B	4 V	5 I	6 W	7 M	8 T	9 J	10 Q	11 A	12 U	13 F
14 H	15 D	16 P	17 E	18 L	19 K	20 G	21 Z	22 O	23 R	24 X	25 C	26 N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Dull retrograde poet (4)
3. About to die, put bone in pile of earth (8)
8. Boast clothing given back (4)
9. Throw round a tree like lightning? (8)
11. So Hun militia suffered indignities (12)
13. Deem it nothing to include returning punctually (2,4)
14. Does he record the runs in twenties? (6)
17. Make a big noise to make the building taller? (5,3,4)
20. An aristocrat of high principles? (8)
21. Eat to celebrate Enid's comeback (4)
22. Urgent work to make clothes look better? (8)
23. Taking a long time to begin to make a gesture (4)

Down

1. You can tell a graduate by what he wears in infancy (8)
2. Again let in mad rite (7)
4. Its contents make for smoother running (6)
5. Helpless with laughter after surgery? (2,8)
6. Joining association (5)
7. Animals initially deprived of good sustenance (4)
10. Retired art teachers? (3,7)
12. Do they waste time over the sweet course? (8)
15. Disturbance - when odd trio take mixed gin (7)
16. This tune takes much effort (6)
18. Go at an easy pace - not enough for a wager (5)
19. Break cooking vessels up (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Fall (4)
3. Miserable (8)
8. Secure (4)
9. Passage (8)
11. Tripper (12)
13. Endeavour (6)
14. Winner (6)
17. Betterment (12)
20. Almanac (8)
21. Certain (4)
22. Balderdash (8)
23. Repudiate (4)

Down

1. Administer (8)
2. Functionary (7)
4. Army recruit (6)
5. Despotic (10)
6. Underworld (5)
7. Gloomy (4)
10. Predominance (10)
12. Lavish (8)
15. Offering (7)
16. Bog (6)
18. Fruit (5)
19. Scrutinise (4)

Sudoku

		9				7		
	8			5	3		4	
		6	8	2		5		
	1			6				9
	4	5				3	2	
				9	2		7	
	9	3		8	4	2		
	2		1				6	
		1			6	9		4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	4	9	6	2	3	7	8
8	9	6	1	7	3	2	4	5
3	7	2	8	4	5	6	1	9
2	3	5	4	8	7	9	6	1
9	6	7	2	3	1	8	5	4
4	8	1	6	5	9	7	2	3
5	2	9	7	1	8	4	3	6
6	1	8	3	2	4	5	9	7
7	4	3	5	9	6	1	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Proposition; 9 Lobster; 10 After; 11 Elite; 12 Tension; 13 Fronts; 15 Parent; 18 Operate; 20 Tip-up; 22 Eland; 23 Inmates; 24 Presumption. Down: 2 Rabbi; 3 Patient; 4 Sprite; 5 Twain; 6 Outside; 7 Elderflower; 8 Bring to pass; 14 Open air; 16 Attempt; 17 Medium; 19 Andes; 21 Patio. QUICK - Across: 1 Nondescript; 9 Erected; 10 Forge; 11 Sieve; 12 Element; 13 Recess; 15 Amount; 18 Meander; 20 Upset; 22 Naive; 23 Allegro; 24 Wealthiness. Down: 2 Obese; 3 Dithers; 4 Sadden; 5 Rifle; 6 Parvenu; 7 Measurement; 8 Restitution; 14 Chalice; 16 Maudlin; 17 Breach; 19 Dwell; 21 Sages.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. In Roman mythology, of what was Janus the god?
2. Who wrote The History Man in 1975?
3. What type of creature is a rorqual?
4. What is the brightest star in Ursa Minor?
5. Which novelist gave the Wars of the Roses their name?
6. In which novelist's works does the basketball player Rabbit Angstrom recur?
7. How many beats per bar are there in a waltz?
8. When is the feast day of St Patrick?
9. In which ocean are the Sea Islands?
10. Of which name has England had one king, France two and Poland three?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Malta; 2 Operation Overlord; 3 Jordi; 4 Kamikaze; 5 Dorset; 6 Sir Michael Tippett; 7 Woody Allen; 8 Myanmar (Burma); 9 112; 10 Isaac.

Niner: DUPLICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7852 gives an emperor,
93244 gives an explorer,
816927 gives an inventor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 13, 2016

New start for Old India

After reading the good online reviews MARK SHIPP samples the fare at the Old India in St Anne's Road, Willenhall



Inside it is well lit so you can actually see what you are eating



Takeaway has now expanded into a dine-in restaurant

THE area was home to a dog racing track years ago. Now Amirul Hoque is out of the traps to launch his restaurant career.

Amirul previously worked in the laundry business, but hopes to clean up after branching out to become owner of Old India, in St Anne's Road, Willenhall.

Formerly a takeaway business, Amirul has expanded the premises into a dine-in restaurant. And, while the take out business continues to be popular, he admits it has been hard to attract sit-down diners.

Parking is perhaps an issue. The restaurant is located in a predominantly residential area, with the odd new-builds adding to the traditional terraced homes, and a clamour for the on-road spots. Elsewhere, there are signs of commercial activity.

Limited

The Forge Tavern stands at one end of the road, adjacent to another derelict former pub and the restaurant faces green space belonging to St Anne's parish church.

A bargain supermarket is right next door, ideal, for picking up your alcoholic drinks before popping into the unlicensed Old India for your meal.

It was a quiet Tuesday night when my partner and I dined, so we were able to make use of what limited parking there is. As a takeaway this would not pose a problem as one could simply park up for just a few minutes, pick up their meal and go.

So, is this what is holding Old India back? The potential is there, and many people passed as we dined. There's plenty of competition in the town, but surely the proof is in the pudding, they say. Online reviews are favourable. 'Very clean and the warmth inside', 'made to feel welcome and comfortable', 'food delicious and waiters friendly' among the comments by satisfied diners. This was matched by our own experience.

Its description in a village magazine as 'quality Asian cuisine in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere' I can identify with.

Size isn't everything, and, although it's small inside, it's within its means. The overall decor is nothing spectacular, but it's certainly well lit and, from the the music played on a loop I still have one particular tune in my head.

Our waiter was courteous and was happy to explain to us what certain dishes consisted of.

The menu itself threw up some tasty sounding dishes, like a Lahore special, taste of Jaflong and chicken Rajhastani.

There were plenty of non-Asian offerings, too, including scampi, chicken nuggets and omelette. For starters I can heartily recommend the korahi kebab and whatever secret recipe sauce it was cooked in.

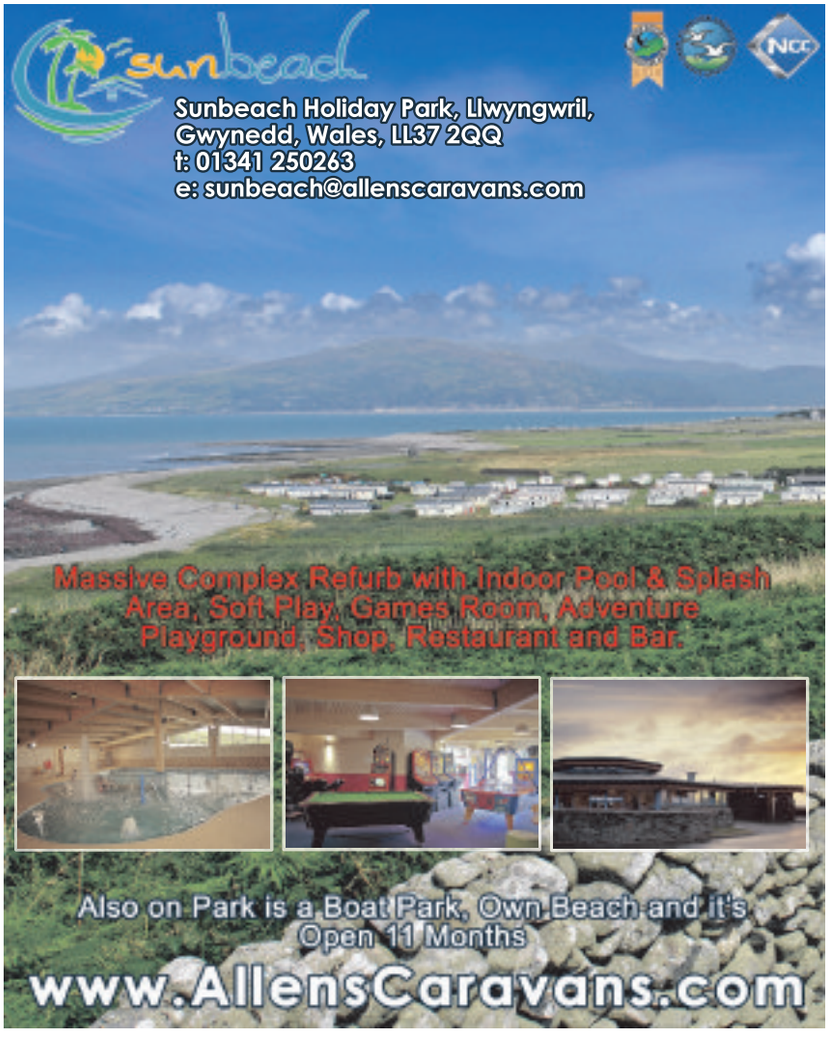
I opted for the moza mix as my main, taken from the chef's specials, and comprising Tandoori chicken, keema balls and spinach cooked with spicy onions in an exclusive sauce.

It was one of a number of fancies, but a wise choice as immediately the temperature hit me – and the taste was good, too.

A creamy makhani chicken – yawn! – was the choice of the less daring other half. She likes to compare with others, and though this may not have quite measured up to the fare dished up elsewhere, it did go down well.

Prices are reasonable, though, with set meals for two at £24, for example. And being able to take your own drinks always cuts the cost.

Old India is open from 5pm every day. To book a table, or for details of special offers, call 01902 630811.











A splendid extended five-bedroomed semi-detached

In a cul-de-sac position just off the Oakham Road in Dingle Close, this five bedroomed extended semi-detached family home is for sale through Trinity Property at £260,000.

Having double glazing and central heating, the driveway to the front leads to the front door, into an entrance lobby and then into the entrance hall. There are stairs to the first floor, a door to the downstairs WC and further doors to an open plan lounge/dining room to the front, a through room with doors to the rear garden, a utility area leading through to the modern fitted kitchen with a breakfast bar and with a family room off. On the first floor there are five good sized bedrooms, and the main bedroom with an en-suite shower/WC room off it. There is also a house bathroom/WC with a bath and separate shower with a separate WC down stairs. The rear garden includes decking.

OAKHAM

£260,000

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395 or visit the website at www.trinityproperty.net

Large modern home situated in much sought after location

KINGSWINFORD

£289,950 >>>

A very large modern detached family home in Balfour Road, Kingswinford, is well placed within the sought after Blanford Mere, in a superb end position adjoining established trees and the open green to the side.

It is for sale through Taylors at £289,950.

Its position enhances the incredibly spacious layout. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, large lounge with walk-in bay, a dining room, an attractively fitted kitchen with an island, ground floor WC, excellent store, three double bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room and house bathroom.

Contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit the website at taylors-estateagents.co.uk







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PEDMORE, Stevens Road £1,350 pcm+Fees
A beautiful well presented detached 4 double bedroom family home in this very popular location. Accommodation comprises: Reception hall, well equipped kitchen with Range Master Cooker, front reception with doors opening to rear dining room with french door access to a lovely private garden. On the first floor there are 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom with separate shower. Outside there is parking to the front with garage, gas central heating/double glazed. EPC: TBC



NEW

HALESOWEN, Hagley Road £900 pcm+Fees
A unique opportunity to rent a detached house in Hasbury. Featuring 3 large double bedrooms, 3 spacious reception rooms with original features, minton hallway, beautiful kitchen, modern bathroom with separate shower cubical, a lovely mature garden with an 8 man jacuzzi, large driveway for at least 4 cars, detached double garage. Unfurnished. Short Term Only! EPC: F



NEW PRICE

HALESOWEN, Huntlands Road £800 pcm+Fees
Beautiful views overlooking Clent! This lovely 3 bedroom semi-detached property located in this very popular location close to schools & bus routes. Featuring: Large reception room, refurbished modern kitchen/dining area, downstairs cloakroom, 3 good size bedrooms (2 with wardrobes) refurbished modern bathroom with separate corner shower cubicle, mature private rear garden, garage & driveway parking, new gas central heating, double glazed and alarmed. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close £795 pcm+Fees
An extended 4 bedroom semi-detached house in this quiet location on the popular Squirrels Estate in Halesowen. Featuring a large living room which is having new carpet, separate dining room, double glazing, gas central heating, 3 double and 1 single bedrooms, pleasant rear garden. Separate garage en-bloc. Viewing essential. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Newfield Crescent £795 pcm+Fees
Stunning large 3 bedroom semi-detached in this very popular location, close to town centre and schools. Front lounge with gas fire, large open plan kitchen with island, dining & living area leading to patio doors and back garden, downstairs shower room/utility area, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and dressing area, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with large jacuzzi bath. EPC: D



HURST GREEN/HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue £750 pcm+Fees
Located in the ever popular area of Hurst Green, is this semi-detached house, finished to a high standard, comprising 3 bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, modern bathroom with shower, very large lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Brades Close £725 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished detached house in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. This property features 4 bedrooms two of which have ensuites, through lounge/dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs wc. This property also benefits from a garage and driveway parking, rear garden with views. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: D

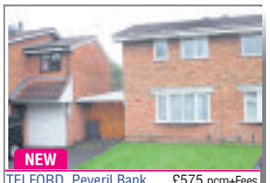


HALESOWEN, Beecher Street £675 pcm+Fees
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which has just been refurbished. Ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. Available now. EPC: D



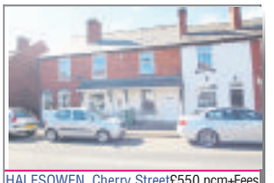
LET

HALESOWEN, Olive Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented and redecorated 3 bedroom end terrace house in a popular location close to bus links & schools. Featuring reception room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 1 double bedroom & 2 singles, upstairs bathroom with shower. Also benefiting from large flat garden, double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



NEW

TELFORD, Peveril Bank £575 pcm+Fees
A lovely modern well presented 2 bed semi detached house with driveway parking for 2 cars & a car port in a cul-de-sac location. Hallway, lounge, kitchen with appliances, conservatory, private rear garden, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom with shower. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Cherry Street £550 pcm+Fees
A well presented mid terraced house in a sought after location, close proximity to the number 9 bus route and Halesowen town centre. Consists of lounge with feature wall, kitchen diner with plenty of storage and access to the good size rear garden with patio area and lawn, white bathroom suite with corner bath, separate shower cubicle, sink and WC, a large double bedroom and a single rear bedroom. Available November. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees
Part furnished. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room with sofas, kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms (1 with a bed), bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



KIDDIMINSTER, Patin House £500 pcm+Fees
You'll love this charming 1st floor apartment set in a converted Victorian house offering you fully central heating, an open plan lounge giving you generous space to move about!, fitted kitchen with appliances and granite worktops, large bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom, allocated parking and well kept communal gardens. Situated in a friendly community. This property is available immediately. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Whitehall Court £495 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with appliances, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Richmond Court £475 pcm+Fees
A unfurnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre and bus links. Featuring kitchen with integrated appliances, living room, lovely modern shower room, electric storage heating and on road parking. This property is close to Huntingtree Park and a few minutes drive to Halesowen Town. EPC: D



LET

ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close £450 pcm+Fees
A well presented, unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road £425 pcm+Fees
A 2 bed unfurnished split level flat above a shop within walking distance of the town centre with easy access to buses. Comprising of: large living room, two bedrooms, shower room, good size kitchen/diner located on a separate level, gas central heating, double glazing and rear garden. EPC: E



STOURBRIDGE, Stambermill House £425 pcm+Fees
Fully refurbished apartments within a stones throw of Stourbridge Town Centre and on the number 9 bus route. This stunning 1 bedroom apartment on the ground floor features an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen, shower room, 1 double bedroom & private rear parking. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, Greystone Passage £395 pcm+Fees
A recently redecorated 1st floor flat within walking distance to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, Garden, off road parking, Unfurnished. This property must be seen and not missed. EPC: E



PENSNETT, St Marks Court £395 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat, close to Russells Hall Hospital, briefly comprising of: electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: TBC



NEW

CRADLEY HEATH, Great Western Drive £385 pcm+Fees
A very well presented 1st floor apartment in a well sought after location. Ideal for Old Hill Train Station and local shops and bus links. This apartment features a great size lounge with a 2 seater sofa/coffee table and bookcase , modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, allocated parking for 1 car, communal gardens to the rear. EPC: D

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S120BR Brown faux leather £19.99
Was £39.99 Buy 2 Pairs for £35

S120RY Red faux suede £19.99
Was £39.99 Buy 2 Pairs for £35


All Weather Boot Sole



Unisex Tempest Wax Jacket

Only £39.99 plus £4.95 P&P

This great value classic wax jacket is country wear at its best, allowing you to enjoy the great outdoors in warmth, comfort and style. The breathable waxed finish 100% cotton outer is water resistant, thorn and windproof. The detachable lined hood and collar is faced in co-ordinated corduroy and the inner lining is 100% cotton tartan.

Available in navy and green. Sizes to fit men and women: S (38"-40"), M (40"-42"), L (42"-44"), XL (44"-46"), XXL (46"-48"), XXXL (48"-50").

TPN Navy
TPG Green

SAVE £10 WAS £49.99


TPG Green


TPN Navy

Thermal-lined Chinos

Only £24.99 plus £4.95 P&P

With classic chino styling, soft fleece lining, two slant pockets, belt loops and two back button pockets, these traditional favourites provide the perfect solution for the colder seasons.

An additional hidden expanding waist offers an extra two inches of give, enabling you to move and stretch with ease. Was £34.99.

Sizes: Leg 27" 29" 31" 33"
Waist 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42"
44" 46" 48".

C141DB Fawn Chinos £24.99
Was £34.99 Buy 2 for £40

C141GR Graphite Chino £24.99
Was £34.99 Buy 2 for £40

C141NY Navy Chinos £24.99
Was £34.99 Buy 2 for £40

BUY TWO FOR £40


C141NY Navy


C141GR Graphite


C141DB Fawn

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

8am-8pm, 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote 66120

Order online at expressandstarshop.co.uk

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers. co.uk and in our retail store between 04th July and 04th October 2016. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Group Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (66120), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-GROUP LTD for £_____ Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No _____

My card number is:

Start date: ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐ Security Number: ☐☐☐

"Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd."

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	SIZES	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
				POSTAGE	£4.95
				TOTAL	

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

N.E.DOWNING (Blackheath) Ltd

Independent family run Funeral Directors

24 hour service

Halesowen

0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

1 Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER Revo 4 wheel, had little use, brand new batteries with receipts, all as new, £295. Stourbridge 01384 440919.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

SHOPRIDER MOBILITY Scooter 6 months old, good condition, hardly used, £600 o.n.o. 01952 604638 or 07539 592442.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. Now available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid

Please Call AEG on 01384 848439 or Lee Jinks on 07740 895448 www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED cash on pick up. ASAP. Call me on 07717 090817.

music shop

EXPERIENCED VOCAL Front Man and experienced Drummer for 8 piece functions soul band. No age limited. 01384 385694.

sports & leisure

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

book fair

BOOK FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 16th Oct, Est 1979, Waverley. Next Antique Fair 6th Nov. Stalls available for all. Call 0121 550 4123

3 Home & Services

furniture



CHESTERFIELD
3 seater and 2 seater.
Colour Oxblood. Brand New real top leather in the box, never been used, must sell less than half the price.
£1,150 can deliver.
Mobile 07342 746919.

SAXON LEATHER CHESTERFIELD SOFA wing back chair, footstool, chestnut brown colour, two years old immaculate, **£750 ono.**
07970 455916.

household appliances

FRIDGE FREEZER excellent condition, £85 can deliver. 07766 773231.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS 01902 703528 / 07908 906406. Coven.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE



FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com



AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS ANTIQUE GUNS, TAXIDERMY- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED.
07968 624202

COINS, MEDALS, BANK NOTES Wanted by private collector. Telephone 01902 676540.

FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES Tickets and other sports memorabilia. Top prices paid for the right item.
Call Paul on 01543 251743.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

specialists at your service

aerials

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard CheckATrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

PORTWAY FENCING

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"

Michael - Portway Fencing.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

home improvements

Home Improvements
Quality Bathroom and Kitchen installation
Plastering, tiling, carpentry
Greg Blackham
07739 518562
gblackham15@hotmail.co.uk

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

STOURBRIDGE REMOVALS reliable, economical, free quote (07802) 876876

skip hire

BLITZ SKIPS
AFFORDABLE SKIPS
2-50 YARD SKIPS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT 7AM-6PM
01902 870370
0121 517 1111

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

ADORAL AMERICAN COCKER Spaniel puppy, 4 months old, KC reg, vaccinated, chipped, very playful and loving, parents can be seen, SOLD.

KITTENS X2 Female, tortoishell, eight weeks, litter trained, £30 each. 07734 208600.

TWO BLACK KITTENS Brother and Sister, 8 weeks old. to a loving home. £80 pair. 07754 008263.

TWO KITTENS black and white male, £25 each to good homes. 01902 218944.

6 Property

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
30 yrs
0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

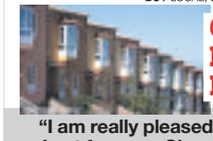
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
0121 405 0797
*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen, £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

GROUND FLOOR 1 bed flat, very modern, Oxley area. Working person. £99.50p/w. 01902 238770.

SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

THREE BED house, 2 bathroom, W-ton, nice kitchen, off Goldthorn Hill, £650pcm. 07886 781724.

mobile homes

MUST BE SEEN

TINGDENE FULLY RESIDENTIAL
50 x 20 NEW DOUBLE UNIT PARK HOME.
Two bedrooms.
One en-suite.
Private gardens and parking.
Sited in Telford area.
Call for full details.
07810 044813 / 07801 530894.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

TANNING SALON and beauty room, immediate lease available, Gornal High Street, Dudley. No lease free just rent of £650pcm. 07852 225618.

7 Jobs

hotel & catering

LAPAL HOUSE
Lapal Residential Home, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen. B62 0ES

COOK
required part time 16 hours per week 7 a.m. 3 p.m. which will include some weekends and holiday cover.
To cook good quality homely food for our 41 residents which will include some weekends and holiday cover.
Email CV to **michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk** or Telephone the Manager **Michelle Upperdine 0121 503 0326 (office hours only)**

motor trade

MANUAL/COMMERCIAL GEARBOX BUILDER (Salary depending on experience) Must be experienced in all areas of refurbishing. Varied variety of gearboxes to build to high standard. Based in Birmingham. Please send your CV to trudy@powertransmissions.uk.com or Tel: 0121 773 9931

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
JOBSDAY

Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.

Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

full time - general

The Earls High School
Furnace Lane, Halesowen,
West Midlands. B63 3SL
Tel: 01384 816105
Email: recruitment@earls.dudley.sch.uk

EXAMS AND DATA ASSISTANT

Grade 4, Scale Points 14 - 17
Term time only, 41 weeks
£14,890 - £15,853 p.a.

The Governors wish to appoint an Exams and Data Assistant to support the teaching and learning of students in the School.
Please contact the School for further details and an Application Form or visit our website: www.earlshighschool.org
CLOSING DATE: Friday 21st October 2016

The Earls High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500



AUDI A1

1.6TDi, SE SPORTSBACK

5-dr, FSH, MoT June, 2 remote control keys, 15,630 miles, mechanically warranted, usual standard features, free tax.

£9,750 ono.

07916 252817.

CONVERTIBLE

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE

2.5 TDi

04, long MoT, Mint Blue,

all electric, grey leather interior, excellent condition.

£2,450 ono.

07948 146611.

---

7 SEATER

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

VTR HDi SE DIESEL

09 reg, 0.6cc, red, ten months MoT, automatic, 7 seater, fridge, CD player, 67,000 miles, very good condition,

£3,800 ono.

0121 5251157.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FIESTA CLIMATE

2009. 5 door.
Diesel. Silver.
Mot May 2017.
28,800 miles.
Excellent condition.
ABS. Immobiliser. Radio. CD.
£2,800.
01902 880806.

LOW MILEAGE

FORD FIESTA ST2

Black, 2013 plate, MoT till April 1 2017, full service and MoT, 1 owner from new, security tracker, 2 new back tyres, 7,400 miles, good condition.

£13,400 ono.

07780 001797.

SHOWROOM CONDITION

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

1.2cc, petrol, 3dr, 58 plate, 19,000 miles fsh, red, tinted windows, sensorrs, 12 months MoT, showroom condition,
£4,400 ono.
01902 765739.

---

7 SEATER

FORD GALAXY GHIA LUXURY

2004, 1.9 TDCi, metallic blue, full leather, top spec plus more, MoT, service history, CD, new tyres, clutch, dual-mass fly-wheel, cam belt and service ready to go. Not usual rubbish. Private car.

£3,450 o.n.o.

07971 284856/01746 861841.



KIA PICANTO 2

2010. High miles 82,000. Perfect engine.
No damage or rust.
12 months MoT.
Extras phone for details.
Must be seen.
£2,850.
07905 092643.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

MAZDA 3

55 reg, 5-dr hatchback, red, black interior, alloy wheels, sports pack, radio / CD player, EW, EM, AC, MoT till Feb 2017.

Reliable car.

£2,490.

01384 401209.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350 AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys,
Absolutely pristine.
£9,999.
07836 204450.
deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk

ECONOMICAL

NISSAN MICRA TENKA

2013, 5-dr, 1.2, 18,000 miles.
Mot May 2017, FSH.
Remote central locking.
Electric windows, air con.
Panoramic roof, sat nav, etc.
£30 road tax.
£5,000.
07910 942090.
Kidderminster.



PEUGEOT 107

2013, 18,000 miles, purple, top spec.
£3,600.
01902 634410.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

PEUGEOT 107 URBAN

2009, 5-dr hatchback, Long MoT.
Electric windows.
Central locking.
Immaculate condition.
£20pa tax.
£1,850 ono.
07842 367128



TOYOTA CELICA SR

1998, 43,800 miles, one owner, long MoT, service history, silver, electric windows and mirrors, aircon, alarm, alloys, central locking, radio cassette CD,
£2,000 o.n.o
07932 276235

DIESEL

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA CDTi 16v SRi

12 plate, silver, 87,000 miles, 2.0 diesel, 5Dr hatchback.
10 months MoT.
Recently purchased.
Lovely car but too big for me.
Excellent condition.
£6,995.
Sorry no offers.
01902 895481.



VAUXHALL MERIVA EXCLUSIV

11, 17,500 miles, fsh, 12 months MoT, 1.4 petrol, air con, excellent condition inside and out.
£4,995 ono.
07742 943997.

---

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BARGAIN

FIAT PUNTO 1.2

05 reg, low milesgae.

CD player, alloys, MoT.

Electric windows.

Good condition.

£595.

Telephone 07754 557861.



FORD KA

2001, 1.3, MoT, low mileage.
59,000 from new, PAS.
CD player.
Economical to run,
£325 ono.
07434 656795.



FORD KA ZETEC

2008, 49,100 Miles, MOT till March 2017, privacy windows. Family owned from new. Very good condition and super reliable. Ideal first car
£1,200
07850 843166



FORD KA

2008

MoT history, 56,000 genuine miles, drives, looks great,

EW, PAS, CL,

£995.

07449 431723.

BARGAIN

JAGUAR X-TYPE

2.0 V6 SE

Petrol, manual, 2003, dark blue colour, pale leather, two owners, 74,000 miles, new MoT, emissions perfect lovely,

£950.

SOLD

BARGAIN

MERCEDES KOMPRESSER

2003, blue. MoT Feb 2017.

low milage.

£1,300 ono

07450 189 193

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSER

2003, blue.

£1,300 ono.

07450 189193.



RENAULT CLIO 1.4L

2005, 61,000 Miles, Silver, MOT September 2017, alloy wheels, electric windows, central locking, great condition, ideal first car.
£925 ono
07713162404



RENAULT CLIO 1.2

TCE Dynamique,

petrol, manual, 5 doors, 2007. Grey, MoT December 2016,

57,915 miles,

£1,500.

07801 790846.

RENAULT CLIO

PRIVILEGE

1.4 5dr, 2003, silver, MoT September 17, 67,000 miles, FSH, air con, EW, remote C/L, CD radio, PAS, superb, needs to be seen.

£795.

07939 498854.

MUST BE SEEN

RENAULT SCENIC FIDJI

2003, 1.6, 48,000 miles, manual, petrol, 2 keys, remote central locking, air con, electric windows, MoT August 2017, FSH, cam belt replaced,

£925.

07910 942090.

Kidderminster.



RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEDGE DCi 120

Diesel, green, 53 reg, High spec, low miles, serviced regular, good condition.
Must be seen.
£675.
07476 309451.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN

16v, 2004, manual, blue, petrol, 3dr, genuine sale,

£1,100.

07787 547577.

FOR A QUICK SALE

VAUXHALL CORSA SRi

5-dr hatchback, 1800, petrol, 2003, black, MoT till March 2017, alloy wheels, alarmed, high mileage but engine, gearbox, body very good.

Nice looking car and very good drive.

Quick sale only £595 ono.

01902 262001. 07928 679949.

classic cars

LOOK

MG MIDGET

1972, mint condition.
MoT'd, bronze yellow.
No modifications.
This car must be seen hence price
£6,000 o.n.o.
07906 313295.
No texts please.
Kingswinford area.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY
Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
*T&C's apply
FreeAds

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE, lonely Female seeking, broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489181.

INDIAN MALE 40's

Would like to meet lady any nationality for dating, holidays, wine bars, night clubs etc.
All replies answered.
Box Number P20571 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY 59

Christmas is coming and it would be nice to spend it with a nice genuine man, for nights in / out.
Tall, medium build.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number P20572, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, LATE 50S

WLTM gentleman of similar age for friendship (possibly long term relationship), outings, holidays etc, GSOH would be nice.
Photo appreciated and returned but not essential.
Wolverhampton and surrounding areas preferred
Box Number P20574 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES..

MR MAGIC

Love and miss you so much.
Hugs and hugs and kisses.
Love you forever.
Mrs Magic.
XXXX
X

WIDOW, YOUNG AT HEART 70S

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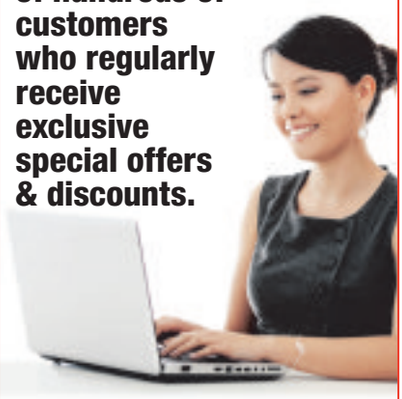
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 39 St Kenelms Avenue Halesowen West Midlands B63 1DW, who died on 27/08/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 23/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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ClassifiedAds

Swedish vibes and clean lines

By Ian Donaldson

GOODNESS, hasn't Volvo changed in the six years since the Chinese took control, most obviously seen in a very un-Swedish outward display of confidence in their cars.

Once upon a time, even right into the age when Ford made the big decisions, you would have heard how safe and sensible were the cars designed in Gothenburg.

A little dull, perhaps, but so, so appealing to the inner accountant and responsible granddad in potential buyers.

They are still safe today – safer than ever, in fact, with the big XC90 SUV emerging as the safest car ever to be crashed on purpose in the respected EuroNCAP tests.

The next new Volvo along is the V90 estate and S90 saloon, tested here and both built on the same underpinnings that made the XC90 such a star performer in the safety tests. They're sensible too, with enough room in the rear for trio of adults and luggage space that varies from generous (500 litres in the S90) to luxury van-like (560 litres) in the V90, even before you pop the split rear seats flat.



But no Volvo before has even been introduced with a graph showing it roaring away from the lights ahead of its competitors, some of them with bigger and more brutish engines doing the work.

That point was made to both showcase the surprising power from the Volvo's 2.0 litre diesel engines (the firm has pledged never to go larger) and the clever technology on one of them that gives a boost away from the line. That's called PowerPulse and pumps a high pressure puff of air into the turbocharger at low revs to smooth the delay you otherwise find between ordering full power and it arriving that is a downside of turbo'ed motors.

Most S/V90 models won't actually have the instant turbo effect, making do with a less powerful version of the same diesel engine (D4 versus D5) that is going to be much the most popular power unit across the new range, with the D5 taking 20 per cent and the part-electric plug-in hybrid T8 Twin Engine a niche 10 per cent when it arrives next year.

Prices start at 32,555 for an S90 saloon in D4 (190hp) Momentum trim, moving up to £41,555 for an S90 D5 Momentum with all-wheel drive and a 235hp engine.

Head for a posher Inscription version and you add £3,000 and £2,500 respectively to the bottom line. Fancy an estate – most will – and there's an easily remembered £2,000 price hike across the board.

However much you spend on the newcomer it results in a car that looks notably handsome, with uncluttered lines giving off very Swedish vibes. Same goes for the interior, with matt wood flashes in some versions adding to the Scandi furniture effect, even if some of the plastics on the dash felt a bit ungiving.



Buy the least expensive of the newcomers and you won't feel shortchanged. Standard kit includes all the obvious bits

Buy the least expensive of the newcomers and you won't feel shortchanged. Standard kit includes all the obvious bits – sat nav, climate control, big alloy wheels, heated front seats, power boot of tailgate and leather trim.

It also feels comfortable, with typically well shaped seats and a ride that stays the right side of too-firm, if feeling modestly bouncy at times. You can order in a so-called dynamic mode at the twist and push of a knurled wheel between the front seats, but this simply makes the steering heavier, even if the auto gearbox does then change more enthusiastically.

Drive it in comfort mode and you will still find plenty of performance, even in D4 guise (but the big surprise will come when you check the fuel consumption, with an impressive 52mpg showing after a thorough test. That might be considered as practical as can be. How very Volvo.

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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, October 13, 2016

Beefed up and much tastier

By John Griffiths

The often overlooked Suzuki S-Cross was among the early players in the now burgeoning compact crossover sector.

In spite of competitive pricing and a high degree of competence, what it perhaps lacked was the chunky looks demanded by those who have sent SUV sales soaring by 27 per cent this year. The car was too car-like for that.

But that's all changed, with a heavily revamped model which offers more room, a range of new hi-tech and efficient engines and importantly perhaps – if first impressions do count – the stronger, bolder looks of a full-blown SUV.

The S-Cross now comes with two small and economical (but still punchy) turbocharged petrol engines: a 1.0 litre version from the new Baleno and the 1.4 from the acclaimed new Vitara S. The revamped 1.6 turbo diesel is more familiar, but now offers lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Unlike many of its rivals, all versions are available with Suzuki's proven ALLGRIP four wheel drive on demand system.

Prices range from £14,999 for a two-wheel drive with the 1.0 Boosterjet engine, rising to £24,349 flagship model with 1.6 turbo diesel and four wheel drive. A six-speed twin clutch auto is an option with both petrol engines.

The new S-Cross is much more distinctively styled, with a bolder new grille, clam sheel bonnet, broader 'shoulders' and new LED lights. It also has greater ground clearance.

Inside, it has been upgraded with some softer, more expensive-looking materials and a lot of new technology, including the central information/control screen. The cabin has plenty of room for five adults. Leg and headroom in the back is particularly generous for this class, with a roomy 430 litre boot (875 litres with the rear seatbacks folded down). The seating position is high, one of the attractions of an SUV. It means easier access, and great visibility.

A major attraction is that you can have a smooth, comfortable car with 4x4 capability that is still economical to run and environmentally friendly. That's thanks to the combination of new engines and Suzuki's ALLGRIP 4x4 system, both geared to efficiency and fuel saving.

I must admit that, although I was mightily impressed by the 1.0 Boosterjet engine in the Baleno I did wonder how such a small, three cylinder engine would cope with a heavier 4x4. The answer is perfectly, confirming my high opinion of it in the Baleno. The figures are some illustration: 0 to 62mph in 11 seconds, an official 56.4mpg average and a low 113g/km of CO2, but that's only part of the story.

The small, turbocharged petrol engine is becoming increasingly popular with manufacturers and drivers. It has the economy advantage of a small engine under light throttle, but put your foot down and you have the added oomph from the blower.

The Boosterjet produces 110bhp and 170Nm of torque. Compare that to a current, normally aspirated 1.0 litre engine from a major manufacturer – 60bhp and 95Nm.

The torque figure is, if anything, more important than bhp. It mean the Boosterjet, and consequently the S-Cross, is responsive and flexible from low revs and it drives particularly smoothly and quietly without the noise and need for constant gearchanges we experience in a more traditional engine.

During a long test drive across A and B roads in North Wales, my test car averaged an impressive 49.7mpg. Driving it was a relaxed



experience because it has the refinement of a car with a much bigger (and thirstier) car.

The 1.4 Boosterjet, of course, has more of everything. 140PS, 220Nm, a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 10.2 seconds and yet still manages better than 50mpg economy and CO2 emissions of 127g/km. It is both more powerful and more economical than the old 1.6 petrol engine it replaces.

Currently 76 per cent of all Suzuki's sold here go to private buyers, people spending their own money which says a lot for the brand.

But Suzuki is hoping to make a bigger impact on the fleet market with its 1.6 turbo diesel version of the S-Cross, with a special business-user specification, the SZ-T. With 120bhp and 320NM of torque it can average almost 69mpg and the lowest CO2 rating of the range – 106g/km – making it one of the most tax-efficient SUVs around.

The ALLGRIP system was pioneered in the original S-Cross and is a small, light weight replacement for more traditional four wheel drive systems, aiding economy.

All models come with seven airbags and an electronic stability system, and have a five star EuroNCAP safety rating.

All models, get alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, stereo radio/CD player and Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, hill hold control, automatic engine stop/start and multi-function information display.

The S-Cross's bold new 'face' will probably be the first thing many potential buyers notice, but competence as well as beauty isn't just skin deep.

The latest version of the car has a practical and much improved interior, and under the bonnet the new engines are a technical tour de force, offering small capacity economy with the refinement of a bigger power plant.

The availability of four wheel drive confidence with even the smallest, cheapest versions may well be a big attraction to private buyers, but specification and tax efficiency means Suzuki should now make some bigger inroads into the lucrative fleet market.

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Beware of terrible consequences

An alarming number of university students have admitted to using their mobile phones while behind the wheel, as well as speeding and drink driving.

According to a survey of 2,313 young Europeans commssioned by Ford, 43 per cent said they had sent texts while driving, while 38 per cent used apps and 36 per cent answered phone calls.

An additional 60 per cent said they break the speed limit, while 13 per cent had admitted to drink driving.

Comparatively, out of those who left school at 18, 45 per cent said they speed, nine per cent admitted to drink driving and 41 per cent claimed to use their phone behind the wheel.

These findings come in light of earlier research from the World Health Organisation and the European Road Safety Observatory that found that car crashes are the leading cause of death among young people.

Ford's survey findings were published as students across Europe enjoyed Freshers' Week, a week of partying to mark the start of university life for new undergraduate students.

Jim Graham, manager at Ford Driving Skills for Life, said: "Getting to university is an incredible achievement and it is also where many of us make some of our strongest friendships.

"But we want to make sure these are lifelong friendships and help to ensure that these young people can one day look back with pride on a successful graduation.

"It is crucial students, and all young people,understand the terrible consequences, both for themselves and for others, that taking risks behind the wheel can lead to."

Other risks university students said they would be tempted to take included driving a car overloaded with friends (48 per cent), driving with little or no sleep (75 per cent), riding in a car driven by someone they knew had been drinking (28 per cent).

It was found that 30 per cent of university students had admitted they had been in an accident, compared with 25 per cent of those who left school at the age of 18.





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Understated but Alpina has superb performance

By Jack Evans

Alpina has a long-standing reputation for taking all the key cars from BMW's line-up and tweaking them in special ways.

With the B4 Biturbo, the German tuning company has brought in a BMW 435i convertible, taken away the standard car's single turbocharger and replaced it with two instead. That results in a car which produces an amount of power within striking distance of a BMW M4 Cabrio but with more torque too.

Of course, the car also gets Alpina's styling tweaks. There's the standard 20-inch multi spoke alloy wheels and aerodynamic kit. There's also a rather nice four-pipe Akropovic exhaust system at the back, to let you know that this isn't any old BMW convertible.

Alpinas have always been able to manage the look of a car that is understated, but shows sporting intent too. The B4 Biturbo convertible continues this. There's the previously mentioned bodykit, which includes a front splitter. You'll also find Alpina pin striping along the flanks of the car. This may not be to everyone's taste, but in our eyes, it looks fantastic. The large multi-spoke wheels finish the exterior look, and a ducktail spoiler at the rear looks the part too.

Inside, it'll be familiar to anyone who has seen or driven a current-generation 3 Series. BMW's excellent infotainment system remains, controlled by the i-drive rotary selector. There are, of course, certain elements of the interior that have been tweaked by Alpina. The steering wheel, for instance, is thin and trimmed in alcantara, rather than the much thicker BMW M-Sport one.

There's a leather-trimmed dash too, though on our test car, this was a hefty £1,075 option. Blue and green stitching is used throughout the cabin, while a numbered metal plaque makes you fully aware – if you weren't already – that you're driving something a little bit special.

Legroom

Despite having seating for four, the B4 is not a fully-fledged four-seater, rather a 2+2. The rear seats would be fine for children, but adults are going to find it a bit of a squeeze.

Up front, however, there's plenty of room. Legroom is decent and there's plenty of space for bottles and other items. Two large cup holders are useful, especially on hot days with the roof down. However, that roof does affect practicality. If you fold it away, you have to lower the luggage cover in the boot, heavily compromising space. It's a small thing, but users looking to lower the roof often may find it annoying.

Make no question about it, the B4 Biturbo is quick. Putting out 410bhp and 600Nm torque, it can reach 62mph in 4.5 seconds and goes on to 187mph. However, the car's approach to those figures isn't as aggressive as you might think. Powered through an eight-speed ZF auto the Alpina wafts up to speed in a more relaxing fashion than the bodykit would allow you to imagine. That exhaust isn't intrusive, giving a lovely, mechanical note under heavy acceleration.

Alpina makes sure to thoroughly change the suspension on any car it makes, and the B4 is no different. The wheels, though wearing 245/30 section tyres, bear no impact on the car's ride. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a car that deals better with bumps in the road one. It is firm without jarring, which is just what you want in a convertible. This is bettered by placing the car in comfort mode. Up and running, the B4 is easy to drive quickly, with the vast amount of torque on offer making change of pace quick and effortless. It also means it is relaxing to drive on the motorway too.

The B4's steering is also excellent, helped no doubt by the thin-rimmed wheel. Alpina still curiously chooses to use buttons mounted behind the wheel rather than paddle shifters, which is one thing we'd change. That ZF gearbox still provides excellent shifts time after time, though. One annoyance was the start-stop system, which had a habit of cutting in incredibly early, and then starting again with a jolt.

Prices start at £62,950. Our test car, fitted with options such as adaptive headlights and Merino leather, came in at £72,010. Make no mistake, this Alpina is not cheap. For that money though, you get a level of subtleness that is hard to describe. Given the performance available, the car's price makes sense. When you also take into account the bespoke nature of the car's suspension and powertrain, as well as the interior, then it begins to look like good value.

If you're looking to stand out from the crowd, the Alpina perhaps isn't the best choice. If, however, you fancy driving a car that has understated presence hiding a vast amount of performance, the B4 Biturbo may well be for you.

TESTED

Model: Alpina B4 Biturbo (£62,950 base)
Engine: 3.0-litre twin-turbocharged straight-six
Transmission: Eight-speed ZF
Performance: 0-62mph in 4.5 seconds, top speed 187mph
Economy: 35.3mpg (combined)
Emissions: 186g/km CO2

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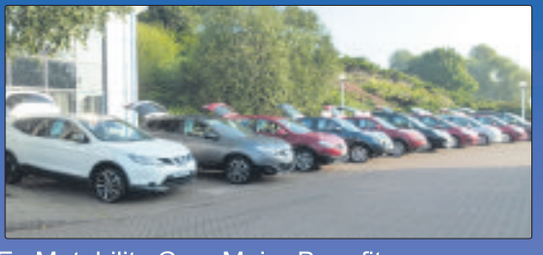
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Bob and Kevin, with, back, Cameron Darby, Dilson Santos, coach Gary Tomlinson, Ellis Clifton and Ashton Jay Pugh



Ellis Clifton is put through his paces at Lions Boxing Club by coach Kev Dillon



Bob Dillon has been helping GB to success at Olympic Games

Pride of Lions Bob helps GB to roar at Olympics

A BLACK COUNTRY voice has been helping Team GB's boxers reach the gold standard for quite some time and it was no different during Rio 2016.

Dudley's Bob Dillon serves as the GB squad's lead podium potential coach and worked with the boxers again this year. He cut short his trip to return home for an open day at the gym he founded, Lions Boxing Club in Brierley Hill, and to join his wife Julie for her 60th birthday celebrations.

In Rio, Joshua Buatsi secured GB's first boxing medal, a bronze, after a points defeat to Kazakhstan's Adilbek Niyazymbetov.

Joe Joyce followed with a silver in the super heavyweight category and Nicola Adams become a double gold medalist after repeating her triumph from London 2012.

With GB reaching its target of leaving Brazil with three medals, Dillon can take his share of the credit.

Buatsi, Joyce and Adams all came through his boxing programme, as did most of their immediate predecessors who starred at the Olympics.

Champion

He's close to Anthony Joshua, who turned pro to become a world champion after going all of the way at London 2012. He also worked Luke Campbell, who won gold and then turned over to the pro ranks.

James DeGale, who went to Beijing 2008, was another protege who joined the paid game, and went on to become the first British Olympic gold medallist to win a world boxing title.

Dillon, aged 59, is now back full time at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. New prospects need to be brought into the system and prepared for the European and World Championships, with the long-term focus towards Tokyo 2020. "We've pretty much operated with the thinking of those that medal will turn pro. It's rare that doesn't come to pass," he said.

"Then you've got those that we believed would do very well in the Olympics and haven't, for whatever reason. Sometimes, it's just down to being on the wrong side of a bad decision.

"We've got to pick them up and bring them on again so, hopefully, they get it right next time. You only get so many chances.

"It's my job to help bring through young boxers and that's where a lot of our attention will be going.

"We look at some youth boxers, so our age range is 17-18 up to about 40, which is the senior limit. Audley Harrison was 29 when he went to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport. Coming here doesn't suit everybody, but it's what you need to do to get to the top."

Dillon is a three-star AIBA boxing coach and has been employed full-time at the EIS for six years, having previously worked part-time for GB since 1999.

One Black Country cohort now on the fighting team is Darlaston's Benjamin Whittaker, 19, who was picked for the podium squad in May.

None of Dillon's fighters at club level have ever represented GB, despite the Lions alumni containing a host of national champions and internationals.

Andrew Price, James Price, Luke Richards, Ricky Summers and Connor Jones all featured for England, but no further. Dillon still rates Jones and the late Thomas Hickinbottom – who tragically died aged 14 in 2003 after a freak road accident – among the most talented boxers he's seen first-hand.

He speaks from a lifetime of experience in the game which started when he was 11, at Kinver and then Warley Boxing Club.

He later became head coach for Warley before starting Lions in 2000, which continues to be a family-run establishment.

Corner

Julie is treasurer and also an accredited judge while son Kevin, 32, is a trainer. Then there's the imposing figure of head coach John Shakespeare, who reached a national final himself boxing for Warley in the 1987 senior ABA competition.

Dillon can still work the corner at club level and does so for Lions members when his obligations allow. He gave a speech at the open day about what it takes to succeed in all areas of boxing.

He said: "Since the start of 2015, I've been to 18 different countries with my job and I wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been away with work a lot and it's vital I've had the support of family. I'll be having a go at Tokyo and carrying on for as long as my heart is in it.

"You haven't got to be fight to be a part of something in this sport. You can contribute in so many different ways. At the club, most of the experienced boxers are also coaching and bringing the lads on.

"Sticking together is the way to succeed."

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Brich

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport."



Bob Dillon, who works with Team GB boxers, seen here with Gary Tomlinson



Zain Ahmed, aged 18, is one of the Lions Boxing Club's young proteges

Sport

Coach Bob packs punch to help boxers make podium

Page 39



Bomber eyes up title fight at Hawthorns

'BAGGIES Bomber' Tommy Langford is dreaming of one day fighting for a world title at The Hawthorns as he strives to become British champion.

Langford appeared at the ground he adores for a press conference to hype up his fight next Saturday.

The Commonwealth title holder is looking to add the British crown to his stash and become king of the domestic middleweight division.

The 27-year-old will vie with Sam Sheedy for the now vacant belt in Cardiff, after the withdrawal of Chris Eubank Jnr.

The Albion season ticket holder and match programme columnist was born in Bideford, Devon, but has family from the Black Country and is settled in Birmingham.

And Langford, who is ranked No 2 by the WBO, has ambitions of one day gracing the Hawthorns turf in front of the supporters with him taking centre stage.

Langford said: "Most fighters see the pinnacle as boxing at Madison Square Garden, but not me. It would be so great to challenge for a world title at The Hawthorns.

"I've been out on the pitch and walked down the tunnel, where the players go out and cross that white line. That, alone, gave me such a buzz.

"I grew up in Devon but my dad David is actually from Priory Park in Dudley and I have aunties and uncles from Stourbridge and Halesowen.

"Even as a kid, I'd come down for as many Albion games as I could and I don't miss a kick now."

Langford is still protecting an unbeaten record, with a flawless return of 17 wins from 17 bouts, containing six stoppages.

Tickets for Langford versus Sheedy are still available on 029 2022 4488 or at www.motorpointarenacardiff.co.uk

Swimmers face tough competition in season opener

HALESOWEN swimmers finished in a creditable third place in the opening round of the National League at Stechford Cascades pool last weekend.

The quality of the competition in the Premier division was high, but after 10 races Halesowen were in joint first place with Braunstone.

By the half way point, Braunstone had surged into a commanding lead with Halesowen and Hereford battling it out for second. Despite some great swims, Halesowen finished four points adrift.

Double individual event winner was Josh Bradley in the 4x2 Individual medley and 100m backstroke.

Other individual event winners were James Cuthbert in the 100m butterfly, Kate Morrice and Jack Simpson in the 100m freestyle, and Olivia Jay and Amber Robbins in the 100m breaststroke.

The girls 15 years and under relay team won both the freestyle and medley relays. The boys 15 years and under relay team also won both of their races.

The men's open age won their medley relay and the 6x2 freestyle relay.

Impressive run of form continues

Old Halesonians u-16s 75 Redditch 0

OLD Hales won the toss and chose to kick off and were immediately on the scoresheet with a try from Matt Dwyer – his first of the season.

It was a long and difficult kick which went unconverted, but Old Hales were ahead.

A knock on by Redditch gave the Hales backs the opportunity to work the ball to Dwyer who once again ran in another blistering try.

The third try came when Sam Higgins intercepted and made a weaving run through the defence.

A minute later Henry Thomas scored a well-deserved try of his own, following a fantastic run from the half-way line, which was converted. Redditch were playing well, but had no answer to an Old Hales squad that was playing like a well-oiled machine.

Scrum half Tom King was outstanding sending the ball first one way and then the other out of the scrum.

Repeat

Harry Fussell was going into the rucks and getting turn-over ball again and again and within minutes Brad Mullett, Jacob Saul and Will Hymer had run in a succession of tries to bring the half time score to 39-0.

Credit to Redditch, who didn't give up, but the second half was a repeat of the first. Alessi Knight scored the first try of the second period, converted by James Freeman-Clews, who minutes later smashed through the Redditch defence for a try of his own. This took the score to 53 without reply.

It now seemed that in spite of continued hard work by Redditch, the Old Hales squad was able to run in try after try, with Jacob Bannister and Oscar Crocombe adding their names to the scoresheet and Brad Mullett running in another two.

The scoreline does not reflect how threatening Redditch were throughout the game, but for the second week running the Old Hales under-16 squad were very impressive and on top form.

A cup match at Malvern this weekend promises to be another exciting game.

HALES RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Old Halesonians 25 Sandbach 16

THIS was to be a challenge for Hales against a Sandbach side who gained a losing bonus point against Nuneaton the week before and also sat just below Hales in the league.

Early visitors pressure led to a penalty, which was cancelled out by Chris Hooper.

The visitors took the initiative on 30 minutes with a well worked try, converted, to lead 10-3 before penalties were exchanged to give Sandbach a 13-6 half-time lead.

After two minutes of the restart wing Joe Oxford was on the end of a planned move and scored an excellent try wide out.

Oxford scored again, but collided with the post and dislocated his shoulder. His try was converted by Hooper and Hales led 18-13.

Sandbach again fought back forcing another penalty, but a minute from time, Carl Robinson crossed the line and Hooper converted.

Old Halesonians 2nds 19 Luctonians 2nds 52

LUCTONIANS were first to score after only three minutes with an unconverted try.

Old Hales replied with an Alex Church try, converted by Jake Shellis, but a converted try for the visitors put them back in front before a second Church effort.

Another converted try made it 19-12 to Luctonians before Hales levelled with a Jamie Keen touch down, converted by Shellis.

Luctonians went in at half-time with a 26-19 lead and added four tries in the second half.

Old Hales 2nds were scheduled to play Bromsgrove 2nds in the Cup on Saturday. However, Bromsgrove have withdrawn and Old Hales have been given a bye into the second round.

Droitwich Vets 33 Old Halesonians 4ths 21

REDDITCH 2nds pulled out of the planned league game so Old Hales 4ths arranged a friendly away game against Droitwich Vets, who fielded a number of ex Worcester players.

Droitwich had the better of the first quarter and quickly amassed 19 points without reply. Old Hales came back with tries from Joe Bradley, Steve Deakin and Andy Tromans, who converted all three.

Old Hales 4ths play Bournville 3rds at home on October 15.

Hosts caught cold by Anderson



Kennedy Digie in action for Halesowen Town against Ashton United on Saturday

Mickleover Sports 0 Halesowen Town 1

KAIMAN Anderson caught the hosts cold with his 12th goal of the season in the opening minute, extending Halesowen's run to six league games unbeaten.

Malcolm Melvin scuffed a shot just wide for Halesowen in an action-packed first half and Anderson saw a shot parried away by Jake Eastwood right on half time.

The second half saw Dan Platt save from the Derbyshire side's former Birmingham City and Republic of Ireland striker Clinton Morrison.

But Halesowen will be happy with another three points which keeps up the momentum.

It followed a 2-2 draw with Ashton United on Saturday which saw Yeltz blow a two-goal lead in the last 15 minutes.

It his was third time in the space of as many weeks they have surrendered a lead and boss John Hill was left cursing his team's concerning habit. "At 2-0 up, that game was won," he said. "We were not under any serious threat and we should have seen it out comfortably."

Jordan Goddard poked home for the first and Anderson added a second seven minutes after the break.

With 15 minutes left, Lee Knight pulled one back and with the clock about to tick into stoppage time, Lee Gaskell turned home.

Heathens miss out on play-off final

CRADLEY failed to haul back a 16-point deficit as rivals Birmingham progressed to the National League play-off final.

The Surestop Brummies claimed a 47-43 second leg win at Monmore Green on Monday night, securing a 20 point aggregate success for their 18th consecutive victory in all competitions.

The Perry Barr outfit knew they had done the majority of the hard work in last Wednesday's first leg, but were keen to beat their Midland rivals on their own shale for the second time this season.

With Cradley renowned for coming on strong in the latter stages of the meeting, the Brummies knew getting off to a good start was imperative.

A trio of 5-1s in the opening six races helped them to build a 10-point lead on the night with six heats remaining.

Heathens did once again claim maximum advantages of their own in heats 13 and 15, but a 5-1 from Tom Bacon and Jack Smith in the penultimate race was enough for the Brummies.

Tom Bacon top scored for the Brummies, taking the chequered flag in two of Birmingham's four 5-1s and kept home duo Ashley Morris and Max Clegg well and truly on their toes in heat 15.

Jack Smith was instrumental at reserve as he dropped just two points to a Cradley rider and held off British Under-19 Champion Max Clegg to secure a 5-1 with Tom Perry in heat six.

Tom Perry and Darryl Ritchings both enjoyed steady evenings against their former club while Lee Geary got the better of Cradley reserve Bradley Andrews at No.8.

CRADLEY 43: Ashley Morris 15, Max Clegg 11+2, Ben Hopwood 8, Joe Lawlor 3+1, Richard Andrews 3, Bradley Andrews 2+1, Ben Basford (no.8) 1, James Purchase R/R.

BIRMINGHAM 47: Tom Bacon 11, Jack Smith 10+3, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 7+3, Danny Ayres 7, Tom Perry 6+1, Darryl Ritchings 5+2, Lee Geary (no.8) 1, Danyon Hume R/R.

Visitors are gifted points by Glassboys

Stourbridge 0 Sutton Coldfield 1

OFF-COLOUR Stourbridge paid for a calamitous error as they lost 1-0 at home to Sutton Coldfield on Monday night.

The Glassboys gifted Sutton the lead in first-half stoppage time as keeper Matt Gould horribly sliced a back pass under pressure and Danny O'Callaghan found the empty net.

Marine 1 Stourbridge 1

THE Glassboys had to wait until stoppage time to plunder a share of the spoils at the Marine Travel Arena.

Brandon Hague's header cancelled out a controversial fourth-minute Kurt Sherlock penalty on Saturday.

★★★

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